

# the Lettini Newsletter

Volume 15

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## happy holiday edition



*It's Goodbye to Kara ... and Off to New Orleans*

## Kara Leaves Home

It certainly has been an interesting year. Kara graduated from college with a BS in Biology and promptly left home. Kim started Graduate School at Seattle Pacific University and is never at home anymore. Inge became a day trader ... or rather an every 'other' day trader ... and is constantly on the computer making stock trades and looking for hot 'initial offerings'. Todd became famous by traveling the country fixing up broken distribution centers. David passed his medical exams and is awaiting admittance to a medical school. Grouper and Ashes are just as bad as ever ... and I still have not retired yet. There, that's about it for 1999. Oh, what's that? You want to hear more? OK!

Shortly after Kara graduated from the UW she and David (her boy friend) rented a U-Haul truck and car trailer and hauled her stuff and car off to New Orleans. On the way they stopped off and saw the Grand Canyon, went to Las Vegas and stopped off in New Mexico ... (Roswell to see her heritage?). She then enrolled at LSU to take some additional enviro-

mental type classes and promptly got a job at Brooks Brothers ... a high end retailer of very expensive clothes at a high-end mall. After a few weeks she was promoted to manager. Woah ... it took me fifteen years to become a manager and she gets it in two or three weeks. I suppose she'll be CEO in a few more weeks. Anyhow she seems to be enjoying her new experience. She also bought a newer car a Mazda 629 since the Metro was dying.

Kim came over one day this summer yelling and screaming something about graduate school. After we calmed her down we learned that she had been accepted to Seattle Pacific University (a very elite Seattle area University). She started school in September and will be majoring in Family Counseling. She also informed us that she needed an abnormal family to practice counseling on ... and that she had chosen us. Thanks a lot Kim. I think this is parent abuse. Since she started school we only see Kim on Sunday evenings for the Sunday family diner. We put a picture of Kara on the table to remind us of her. For

the most part it's just me, Inge and two very bad cats left.

Kim still works with developmentally impaired people ... she was working full time but is now working part time since she went back to school. School work is very challenging and she is very stressed out most of the time ... but managing. She got a 53 out of 50 on her first paper. I give?

Inge has been going to an Acupuncture and Nutritional clinic to help with her leg pains and health. She makes up these concoctions of weird vegetables, fruits and alien berries (I think they are from Venus) ... then she blends them into a juice. The colors of the juices are basically putrid brown or alien purple. But she drinks them and they seem to be helping. She's also on a special diet of tofu, tofu with beans, tofu with rice and more tofu with tofu. Did you know that they make tofu ice cream. Yuk.

Todd was busy this year, traveling to distribution centers all around the country and whipping them into shape. He has a knack for fixing them up and his company sends him out to help the ones that are in trouble. He became very good at doing this and very famous. He gets sent to fix all the problem distribution centers.

David was busy studying for his medical exams and EMT test. He is now an Emergency Medical Technician ... goes out on the ambulances and helps save people ... just like on TV. He also passed his Medical School entrance exams and is awaiting admission to a medical school.



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# Kim & Inge

## Discussing

## Stock

## Transactions



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### ... the year without a summer ...

### Will the year 2000 be better?

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I was also pretty busy ... expanded the deck in our back yard and put a fence around it ... which the cats think is a scratch post ... they thought I built it for them. Ha! I also went to Stanford University twice in my industry advisor role. Also attended a three day symposium at MIT on Robust Engineering ... it was great. I hope to introduce some of what I learned at Boeing if I can find someone who will listen. Of late some Boeing people seem to have lost the capacity to listen.

My Dodge Colt died ... started smoking very badly and no amount of medication could help it ... see what smoking does ... the Colt is now body parts for other vehicles. So I had to buy a newer car ... I bought a 1997 Volkswagen Jetta GLS. A very nice handling car.

Inge went to Las Vegas with some of her friends and as usual won ... but not as much as in previous years ... guess they are getting wise to her. She has been her usual busy self ... feeding the homeless, running the Church rummage sale and working at school. She won the Eagle award at school ... the highest award given by the Mercer Island School District ... I was invited to attend the ceremony ... it was quite an honor for Inge.

Kim and Todd have been busy remodeling their house and yard ... we loaded so many garbage dumpsters (I stopped counting at a hundred) ... with stuff from the house ... and then we cut down at least a million bushes and plants ... I was on Advil for weeks afterwards. The yard is shaping up nicely. Kim also acquired a cat (Angel) to keep the two dogs company ... boy is that a misnamed cat ... she ain't no angel and she terrorizes the dogs.

Seattle had no summer this year ... it was terrible weather ... cold and rainy until about mid September ... then we had a few

weeks of nice weather ... and then the rain came back. As a result, Inge's garden was not as productive as in past years ... in fact we didn't get tomatoes until late October. But even with the bad weather we still had quite a few veggies ... which proves my theory of last year ... she buys the veggies and glues them on the bushes to make it look like she grew them ... I'm on to you, Inge. It's the only possible explanation.

I have been running SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) at Home since it started up in April ... my iMac runs twenty four hours a day running my web site ... 'the Lettini Site' ... [www.mlettini.com](http://www.mlettini.com) ... and running the SETI program full time in the background ... as of this writing I have analyzed 190 data units from the Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico. Total run time so far is 4161 hours 45 minutes and 28.8 seconds ... and darn it all ... I have not found ET. The iMac is one fantastic computer ... in addition to the above it is a file server for all the house computers and the Laser Printer ... runs Netscape, Word, Photoshop, does E-mail etc ... all at the same time and unlike PC's IT NEVER CRASHES. My web site is getting some notoriety ... Sky and Telescope (the premier Astronomy magazine in the world) contacted me and asked to add a link to their SETI site. I also was asked by a Telescope company to add a link.

You've probably read about Seattle having the third worst traffic in the country ... well it is true. I'm in it every day ... sometimes it takes me 3 to 4 hours to get home ... one day I gave up and called Inge from my cell phone and told her I was getting off in Bellevue, having dinner there then coming home when the traffic died down ... I got home at 8:11 PM ... I left work at 3:35 PM.

The WTO (World Trade Organization) is meeting in Seattle this week ... demonstrations, riots, mobs, traffic, etc. Most of it has been peaceful but some is violent. A few hoodlums started trashing the downtown area and ruined it for everyone. Most of them didn't even have a clue about what the protest was about. In fact most couldn't even spell WTO. What politician did this to us? Oh well, maybe it will stop people from coming to Seattle.

When I went to MIT, I stopped by and visited Grandma, Maria and family. It was nice seeing everyone. Anthony is now almost as tall as me, Christina and Dave are still together. Maria, Jim, Cathy and Grandma are all looking good. Took a picture of Psycho Grandma (it was Halloween when I visited and they live on Elm Street) ... think I'll scan it and put in on my web site.

Thanksgiving was different this year ... just Inge, me and two cats. But Inge cooked up her usual fantastic Turkey dinner ... very, very good. Kim and Todd visited Todd's parents in California during Thanksgiving ... Kara and David went to Memphis to visit friends and find Elvis. Don't know if they found him.

I'm still at Boeing. Most of you have read about the hard times and bad press about the airplane crashes ... the fact remains ... Air Travel is still the safest mode of transportation. I'm probably going to retire next year ... it will depend upon my bonus and pay raise ... if I get substantial increases, I'll stay ... if not then November 2nd I'm outta there. This year's E-Series bonus and raise was putrid (and insulting) ... not enough to make it worth my staying. Many of the people who work for me are asking for advance notice so they can find other jobs ... guess they like working for me and are afraid of who my replacement will be.

Kara and I went hiking a few times before she left ... Twin Falls was really neat ... I have to go back some time with my big camera and lens.

Inge is no longer afraid of computers ... in fact I have to reserve time to do my stuff. She is constantly on the computer with e-mail ([ingeroo@hotmail.com](mailto:ingeroo@hotmail.com)) ... she wanted 'hotbabe' but it was already taken. We have an internet stock account ... and she is constantly checking stock prices and initial offerings ... and wheeling and dealing on the internet. She has become a day trader (or actually it's more like an every other day trader). I keep telling her that she has to sell high and buy low not sell low and buy high ... oh well she's learning and having fun.

Oh yeah, one last thing ... Inge has been taking Chee Gong (or something like that classes) ... supposed to be a relaxation thing.

Well, that's it for 1999 ...

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all ...**

... and may you not be affected by Y2K ...