

the Lettini Newsletter

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happy holiday edition



It's Goodbye USA ... and Off to Europe!



Kim and Kara at the EMP!

Inge Leaves Country

Yup, it true, Inge left the country ... and went to Europe. She and her friend Andrea went to Italy, France, Spain, and England. Sounds like it was loads of fun. She visited the Pope and then her cousin Renier in Myorka, Spain ... and bought about half the tourists gifts in Europe. We have packages arriving almost everyday from all over Europe. She sez they are gifts ... but so far all I've seen is Wine ... bottles and bottles of wine. Seems like she has become a connoisseur of wine (to some people it is called a being a wino).

She also went on her yearly prigrimilage to Las Vegas to clean them out of some of the extra money they have. She didn't talk too much about it so she must have not won as much this year. The rest of the time she spent with her Acupuncturist, Naturopathic medicine doctor and eating all kinds of weird foods ... some of which come from outer-sapce or some other strange place. You have never seen the likes of some of the beans she eats.

Now for me, I went to Arizona and

visited the Grand Canyon and Sedona on a picture taking tour. The Grand Canyon was spectacular ... some of the digital pictures I took are on my website in the downloads section. Sedona was just like being on Mars ... everything is this reddish color ... the rocks, the hills, the dirt and the buildings ... everything. I took an off road Jeep trip to an old Indian Ruin, which supposedly dates back 14, 000 years ... some people think that the original inhabitants may have been from the Stone Age. It was a really cool vacation and very relaxing. I also did a lot of hiking in the hills of Sedona ... no where near as spectacular as Seattle by still nice. Next year I'm going to Alaska.

Humm, I was thinking about retiring this year when Boeing gave me this big promotion. I am now a high level Executive and in charge of Manufacturing Research and Development for ALL (yup that's right, ALL Boeing Commercial airplanes ... let's see, that's the 717, 737, 747, 757, 767, 777, and a bunch of new derivative airplanes). It's a very significant position (a really big deal) with a lota responsibility and a lota

people that I am responsible for. You should see my new Executive furniture. WOW ... luxurious and real wood. For my new organization I was asked to think 'Out of the Box' so I am trying to organize into a matrix organization. My vision is very much people oriented ... I want every one to be responsible and have ownership of some function in the matrix. Humm ... sounds like a movie theme. I keep asking myself is this for real ... how'd I get to be an Executive in the largest and most prestigious Aerospace company in the world. Well, so far I haven't awoken yet.

Kim also got promoted ... she is now the 'Director' of the Group House she works at ... and what's one of the first thing she does ... fires a whole bunch of people ... I've been in management for fifteen years and have never fired anyone ... but Kim fires someone almost the first day on the job. So what does she do after that ... she hires some new people and two weeks later fires them. She is becoming know as the Fire Lady. But she is doing a good job and learning the ins and outs of management. Isn't management fun Kim?

Todd quit his job as manager of Clopay ... they didn't want to give him the \$1.2 million and staying bonus he asked for ... even though he won 'Manager of the Year' award ... so he went out on his own ... and is working several jobs and also doing some moonlighting along with playing lotsa golf. He's been very very busy ... but seems to be enjoying it. Todd's brother and his and new wife had a baby ... so that makes Kim Auntee Kimee (Har har har hee hee hee!) and Todd Uncle Todd.

Kara decided she had enough of the 'big easy' in New Orleans and moved to Memphis Tennessee. She and David moved into a Guest House at a big Mansion in Memphis ... from the pictures we have seen it appears that there is lotsa room for entertaining ... and one of Kara's favorite past-times ... 'partying'. Kara got a nice job at a place that provides affordable housing for the 'working poor' including building homes and providing second mortgages. No sooner is she in the job than

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Inge in Italy at a Lettini Store



The Boss ... Michael

I hope we have elected a president by the time you get this ...

she starts to take over and run the place. Oh she is sooo organized. She also, came up during the summer to visit us ... we went hiking and she Kim and I went to the EMP (Experience Music Project) ... the music museum set up by Paul Allen (one of the Microsoft founders) ... when I bought the tickets I thought that I had purchased the entire building ... very expensive but a neat place. Lots of Jimmi Hendrix memorabilia.

David, (Kara's boy friend) got accepted to Medical School at Tulane University ... it happened right after they moved to Memphis ...so looks like David will be moving back to New Orleans next year ... Kara thinks she like Memphis better (more like Mercer Island in stature) ... so she is staying in Memphis. David gave up his job as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) for a job in Memphis with saner hours. He had been working very strange and late hours so he and Kara rarely saw each other. He is now working as a placement specialist for Youth Villages which provides care for abused children with deviant behaviour.

I went on a physical fitness spurt this past summer ... I lost 17 pounds and got into the best shape I've been in since high school ... I played some baseball, football, basketball and did a lot of running ... I actually ran a 100 yard dash in 13 + seconds (not bad for someone in his late thirties - hee hee hee) ... my goal was to get it down to 12 seconds, but I didn't make it ... something about muscle deterioration after you hit thirynine. I did do some hiking ... went with Kim once to Twin Falls and with Kara to Slide Lake. Now that I'm in this new job ... I have been too tired to exercise ... but I will start again. Maybe today ... maybe tomorrow or maybe ...

I modernized my telescope with a CCD (Charged Couple Device) ... the same type of sensor that is used in Video Cameras and

professional astronomy. I messed around with it taking images of the moon one night and got some pretty spectacular pictures ... but it will really excel on planets and deep sky galaxies. I will try those later this winter when we have some clearer skies ... I also modified my Mac computers and installed faster G3 and G4 processors. Doubled the speed in some cases. I'm still running SETI at Home (the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence) ... thus far I have processed 635 data units from the Aericabo radio telescope and run the computer for 11,750 hours 39 minutes and a 59.7 seconds. But, darn it all, I still have not found ET ... but then neither has anyone else.

Inge's garden was not as productive as last year ... guess it must have been the weather. But she got a lot of vegetables and many different herbs. Of course I had to take care of it when she went to Europe ... that's when it really produced ... I went out and yelled at the vegetables and told them they'd better produce or else ... Hee hee har har har!

Oh, before I forget, I must tell you about an incident I had during my vacation ... I went on a photography shooting session (one of my hobbies) around the Seattle area. I like to take pictures of run down barns and houses ... something about the weathering that makes them look very pictorial. Well, this one place in Renton had a run down horse barn ... I leaned over the fence to take my pictures when I heard a racket to the side of me ... as unbelievable as this may sound ... I was attacked by three chickens ... guess they were protecting their territory. But I did get my pictures and learned that chickens can be very vicious.

I did get to visit Grandma and family in New Jersey several times this year while on business trips ... one of my respons-

ibilities is being the Boeing Operations representative on the University Relations Process Council. We go to a different Boeing site each month. So, along with my advisory responsibility at Stanford University, I'm traveling somewhere every month.

Grandma is doing well, as well as an octogenarian can be expected to do. Maria and Jim are well. Christina is still pursuing her teaching career and is attending Kane College. Anthony is getting very good grades in High School and also wants to go to Kane college to pursue a career in video productions and communications.

Kara is planning on visiting us during Christmas ... the whole family will be intact ... also, Todd's parents and brother along with new baby will also be visiting. Kara spent a month in Costa Rica this summer. She and a friend went to do some beach bumming and touring. According to Kara they have beautiful beaches there. I guess some guys tried to hit on Kara but she rejected them ... poor guys ... oh the trauma they must have endured. Oh yeah, Kara is taking Ballet classes ... and Southern Style Cooking classes ... the cooking sounds unique ... they cook up the food eat it and then drink wine. The Lettini ladies seem to have become wino's.

Kim goes to a lot of outings and retreats with her group house clients ... I think she just goes with the clients because at any given time most of the staff has been fired (hee hee hee) ... she says it's theraputic for the clients ... oh sure ... I think it's just a way of getting a company paid mini vacation every two or three weeks. Such a deal. They go camping, horse back riding, play games, etc ... now does that sound like work to you? In any event she is very busy and seems to be having fun.

Todd is building a house in Bonney Lake, a place way way south of Mercer Island ... he is going to sell it for a big profit when it is completed. Todd likes to do stuff like that ... working on his own at his own pace ... sounds good to me. Todd is still into golf ... but he never tells us his scores ... he seems to take his clubs everywhere he goes.

I bought a large screen TV and re-did my home theater ... wow, with DVD's and the digital sound ... it's better than going to the movies ... and louder ... things fly overhead and all around you. Great.

Some other tidbits follow. Inge is taking up Ceramics ... making all kinds of weird things ... masks, vases and questionable other things ... but she keeps breaking them ... humm ... you know they are fragile, Inge. Kim has been taking yoga classes ... I thought yoga was something you eat ... but it's learning to relax in weird positions. Todd and Kim are fixing the house (Opa's old house) ... seems more like they are tearing it apart. Lastly, Kim is about to take rock climbing classes. Why? I haven't a clue ... you can fall down and get hurt.