

# the Lettini Newsletter

Volume 17

Thur Nov 22, 2001

## happy holiday edition



*It's Goodbye to Boeing ... hello life ...*

## Michael Retires

What a year ... that bears repeating ...  
What a year!

**9-11** changed all of our lives forever, including mine. I was back in New Jersey visiting Grandma and left for Seattle on September 11th ... one of my return flight options was Flight 93. It was actually a better flight connection for me ... but for some unknown reason I took a different flight back. ... so I am extremely lucky to be here writing this Newsletter.

My flight got diverted to Atlanta where I was stranded for six days in a motel that was being renovated ... we were one of the last flights to land and all hotels were filled so they opened up this one for us. It was an insignificant inconvenience compared to what happened to the WTC in NY.

On my way to Newark Airport that morning, I marveled at the NY Skyline and prominence of the World Trade Towers . It was one of the clearest days I've ever seen in NY and I was kicking myself for not having my camera with me ... I told myself that the next time I would be sure to bring

the camera. Well, now that will have to wait for another lifetime.

I was distraught at what happened and being stranded - felt helpless. When I finally got back to Mercer Island and to work ... nothing seemed to be the same ... the frustrations of work were even more frustrating ... Boeing's bottom line mentality was killing the Company's future. And then there were a number of people issues that added to the frustration. Very shortly afterwards I decided to take early retirement - I asked that it be kept quiet, since I didn't want a big party or any big deal made of it. My boss asked me to NOT leave ... I refused ... then he asked me to stay on until January ... I thought about it, but just could not get myself to do it. I decided that I wanted to enjoy the rest of my life because one can never know when it will end and thirty-five plus year at Boeing was enough.

I decided to announce about a week before the actual retirement (Nov 1, 2001). Then I started getting e-mails, lunches people insisting on a big going away bash -

I do not like being in the limelight so I refused the party but did go to some of the lunches.

They were not able to find a replacement for me so they have two people doing my job in the interim.

I am thoroughly enjoying retirement ... I do what I want, when I want ... I stay up late and get up late ... and I get paid for it ... when my 401K kicks in, in April I will actually have more take home dollars than when I was at work ... and when Social Security kicks in in three years I'll be earning more. I also save over \$200 a month in gas and don't have to fight the Country's worst traffic - three hours plus every day. Go to [www.mlettini.com](http://www.mlettini.com) to read more about retirement.

Enough about me ... on to the rest of the family. Inge is still working at Island Park School ... and she did her yearly pilgrimage to Las Vegas ... and of course left with more money than she came with. She had another productive garden ... especially tomatoes ... as a matter of fact here it is Thanksgiving and we are still eating tomatoes from the garden. Her health is still good ... but I think she may retire in a year or two. And she eats all that health food ... tofu, soy milk, alien beans, Martian greens, and cardboard ... yuk!!!

Inge and Kim went to Memphis to visit Kara (that's what they said ... but all they talked about was Elvis ... I think they really went to see him and Graceland). They went on a Credit Card spending binge ... and



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## Three Amigo-etts ??????



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## ... Inge, Kim and Kara on the way to Graceland ...

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bought all kinds of clothes (mostly for Kara).

Guess they went partying too ... restaurants, clubs, and other Memphis highlights. Sounds like it was fun. I heard that Kim kinda pooped out ... couldn't take the night life.

Kara is now working as a Researcher at the Memphis Library ... she changes jobs about every four or five months ... she has had more jobs since she graduated than Inge, Kim and I combined in our entire lives. David (her boy friend) is in Medical School at Tulane University ... we get periodic updates about how he is doing ... I'm glad I don't have to go back to school ... Medical School sounds very difficult. Kara drives the four hundred miles periodically on weekends to visit him. Also, she has moved to another house in Memphis and survived the recent flooding. She didn't have any problems but others were stranded or suffered major flood damage.

Kim is still the Director of the Group Home in Seattle ... so far this year she says that she hasn't fired anyone ... last year I lost count of how many. She still gets these free paid trips with the clients to places like (get this) Disneyland, Camping, Horse Back riding ... yes, for free ... unbelievable. She seems hot and cold about her job ... it can be very trying working with some of the clients ... but she handles it well. The hard part of the job is supervising the staff and refraining from telling them to 'quit whinning' ... sound familiar?

Todd and some of his associates have started up a new company to sell and install garage doors. Headquarters are in Pullyalip Washington ... about thirty miles South of Mercer Island. Also, he and Kim finished building a house at Bonney Lake ... which they are now renting and plan to sell in a few years when the tax situation is right.

Kara and David went to Spain earlier this year ... Barcelona and surrounding areas. Must be nice to take off whenever you want to. From the pictures and books I saw it looks to be extremely beautiful there. Kara is taking classes in dancing, cooking, pottery and painting. Is that house painting, Kara? She is also planning on running an 8K on December 15th ... whoa, that's like five miles ... and Kara ... which year ... haa haa! Apparently she is going on the racing circuit and this is her first race. The next one is in March ... Good Luck. I hear that David is running a marathon in the spring ... wowza. Good Luck there too.

Inge still does her volunteering stuff ... Church rummage sale, Pesto dinner night, and feeding the homeless. She is also taking a pottery class at the High School ... problem is that all her work is getting stolen ... is it that good, Inge. Maybe it's being sold on the black market. Check the bottom of your pottery and see if it has an IKVL on it. Once a week the girls get together for dinner at some local restaurants and stay out all night ... I know now since I stay up late too. But then I'm going to be getting together with some of the local Boeing retirees for lunch once a month ... that ought to be interesting.

Kim and Todd just got back from California, where they visited Todd's parents for Thanksgiving Holiday. Kim drove the first seven hours ... she said she drove until the trees started moving along the highway with her. Then Todd took over the rest of the way. They left Seattle to get away from the rain ... guess what ... it rained all the time they were in California.

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I went to Alaska earlier this year ... a vacation to Juneau and Glacier Bay ...

took some spectacular digital pictures (about five hundred - too many to put on my web site - if you want to see them I'd be glad to send you a CD). Stayed at the Bear Track Inn just outside of Glacier Bay and was thoroughly pampered. Back in Washington I took some spectacular pictures of the Blue Angels ... go to my web site to see the best ... this is an unbelievable picture that many people are using for wall paper on their computers.

I just finished setting up a wireless network for the house ... all the computers have their own IP address and with the lap tops anyone can go any place in the house or surrounding yard and surf the web, get e-mail or access the house server and printers. I am using an Apple Airport for the wireless hub. Works GREAT.

Also I just finished painting the Living Room, Dining Room and Hallways and am now in the process of replacing the master bathroom shower including tiles and structure ... it leaked and must be entirely redone ... yuk.

We had a drought in the Seattle area which drove up energy costs ... the summer was not all that great ... I really didn't do very much ... work and traffic occupied most of my time ... but that's all changed now. Heee heee heee.

Oh yeah ... I almost forgot about Todd's softball team ... he and some of his work buddies started a team ... and since they need to have so many women on the team ... Kim dusted off her baseball glove and spikes from high school and joined the team. They didn't win many games but had fun ... Todd was the POWER Hitter and Kim was their Finesse hitter, ala Ichiro. If their games weren't so late ... I might have tried to play.

Well, here is my Christmas wish ... I wish that the terrorists that murdered the 5,000 plus innocent people on September 11th get what's due to them. In fact I hope that it's my tax dollars that buys the bomb that gets them.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all ...

