

## ST. VRAIN SNAPSHOTS



## About the photograph

Who: Dennis King

What: His GTEM, a device that tests for electromagnetic emissions

When: Jan. 18

Where: King's lab in the Vista Commercial Center

Photo by Dennis King

# SEARCHING FOR HOME

## Engineer lays foundation in Longmont

By Tony Kindelspire

The Daily Times-Call

LONGMONT — As Dennis King and his wife, Mila Lim-King, were preparing to start their family a decade ago, they looked around and decided a change of venue was in order.

Northern California, while an ideal place to be an engineer, was not the place that this engineer wanted to raise his family.

"We looked at Silicon Valley and the (home) prices there were already ridiculous," said Dennis King, who runs his own company, EMI Test Lab LLC, out of a small location in the Vista Commercial Center east of Longmont.

A friend King had worked with on the West Coast had moved to Boulder, and on



King

a driving trip through Boulder County, the Kings stopped to visit. A talk with his friend's employer about the technology environment in Boulder and Longmont led to a job offer some weeks later, and King and his wife and their then-6-month-old daughter, Chrissy, packed their bags and relocated to the Front Range.

"Even though I took a pay cut, about a 20 percent pay cut, we still came out because we were able to afford a house," King said.

The couple now have two daughters, Chrissy, 10, and Denise, a 5-year-old kindergartner.

"At first I didn't like it because I was used to seeing all the cars (in Silicon Valley)," Mila said, referring to her first look at the Front Range. But she said over time, she and her husband have grown to love the Longmont community and its

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## ST. VRAIN SNAPSHOTS

**Dennis King adjusts** an antenna inside a test chamber at his lab in the Vista Commercial Center, 1822 Skyway Drive, in Longmont on Feb. 4. King said that after getting out of the Army in 1985, he earned an engineering degree and went to work in Silicon Valley.

Times-Call photo by Lewis Geyer



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family-friendly atmosphere.

It was hard at first, said Mila, a native Filipino, not really knowing anybody here. But she got used to it.

And the best part is, she said, she gets to be a stay-at-home mom.

"We made a commitment early to keep our expenses down so she could stay home with the kids," Dennis King said. "She has the important job — raising the kids. I just make the money."

While EMI is his first business, King has been working in the field of radiated emissions testing since 1987. His official title is "electromagnetic compatibility engineer."

"Electromagnetic compatibility is just a long way of saying the electronics all get along with each other," he said.

With technological advances have come devices King could barely have envisioned when he got into the business: Blackberry wireless devices and iPods, laptop computers and cell phones with built-in cameras.

The Federal Communications Commission establishes specific frequencies in which these types of devices can operate, and compliance testing has been a growth industry.



**Dennis King stands** with his wife, Mila, and daughters Chrissy, 10, and Denise 5, at his business in Longmont. Dennis and Mila met after Mila's mother set the two of them up on a blind date.

Times-Call photo by Lewis Geyer

There are a lot of potential clients in this area, he said.

"(Big companies) will all have their own in-house stuff, so what I end up getting is sort of their overflow business," he said. "The small to mid-size companies — even if you're just one guy starting with one product, you still have to go through this stuff."

King's company started last August when he signed a lease for 4,100 square feet. Quantum, SpectraLink and Cornice are three of the companies that have used his services.

The pride and joy of his testing equipment is a large, space-age-looking device called the GTEM. He found this advanced testing device at a company in Aurora that was either going to have to ship it to Texas or sell it. He was able to pick it up for much less than the \$150,000 it would have cost new.

"It had already depreciated," King said. "In the corporate world, it was worth nothing."

But the GTEM suited his purposes just fine. The silver machine, which acts as one big antenna, can do testing in a frac-

tion of the time that more traditional testing takes, which is usually done at what are called Open Air Test Sites.

He said that at an OATS, testing "a whole spectrum" from 30 megahertz to 100 megahertz would take four to six hours.

"With this thing, using the automated software and all of that, I can do the same thing in 30 minutes," King said.

So, King and his space-age machine have found their niche in the business community, and his family has settled in to doing the types of things that a lot of parents with two young kids are into around here, without having to deal with Silicon Valley traffic and housing prices.

And all of this happened because of a blind date.

King explained that after getting out of the Army in 1985, he earned an engineering degree and was working in Silicon Valley in the same firm as Mila's aunt.

"After a year she decides to set us up on a blind date," he recalled. "I still think it's funny that she waited that long. I guess she was getting to know me or something."

Two months after their date, the Kings were married, and they've been that way ever since, raising their kids in the family-friendly environment they couldn't find in Northern California.

Tony Kindelspire can be reached at 303-684-5291, or by e-mail at tkindelspire@times-call.com.