

2012 – *Travels with Emily*

Brief summary: December 25, 2011 to January 17-- Brazil: Rio, Curitiba, Florianopolis, Iguazu Falls.
(*Travels with Emily*) June 22 to July 9-- Milwaukee (Chris' Mom), Lake of the Woods, Toronto (Ethel Golab).
August 15 to August 27-- Costa Rica with Tufts University group.
December 24 to December 31-- Stay with Emily in Somerville near Boston.

Picture on the Holiday Card: We are on the Brazil side of Iguazu Falls. looking up at one of the series of falls. The Argentine side is also spectacular and completely different in adventure, ambiance, and appearance.

Available pictures: The "cloud" is here. There is a PowerPoint/OpenOffice presentation for the Brazil trip available via Dropbox (133 MB). There is also a different Brazil 80 picture set (without commentary) on Dropbox. The Dropbox software and a small amount of cloud space is a free download. Ask for permission to read the files. Brazil is the fifth largest country in area and also population. It is too vast to summarize the visit in a paragraph.

The Costa Rica pictures are available on the Internet through Google+ Picasa. Ask for the Emailed link to the 60 pictures. No special software on the computer should be needed for the pictures to display in full or part screen mode. For all of the trips, there is a one page story containing the Louis overall impressions of the trip. The one page story can be provided on the web, Emailed, or printed and then sent via postal service upon your request.

Louis is UNEMPLOYED. This is not good. SAIC has been nice enough to keep me as an employee, but I have not been paid for a full week in seven months. This practice is known as Involuntary Leave Without Pay or Unscheduled Professional. The SBIRS (Space-Based Infra-Red System) project at SAIC ended since funds were diverted to different purpose by Lockheed-Martin. The CHIRP (Commercial;y Hosted Infra-Red Payload) project was successful and is the Aviation Week Research and Development Project of the Year, but no new contracts became available for data processing or analysis. My first preference is to continue to work on the CHIRP project. Otherwise, Louis would really like a job closer to the San Fernando Valley to reduce the three hour commute time.

Letter from Dorothy Craigie: Dorothy is the daughter of Audrey and Adolph Klatt of Beaconia, Manitoba. She still lives in Beaconia and sometimes considers coming to visit us in Calabasas. She reported that her sister Chrissie had passed. Chrissie was the youngest of the Audrey and Adolph children. She had Downs Syndrome from birth. Her parents tried to do the best they could for her, but it becomes more difficult as the child gets older. Chrissie eventually went to a home for people with that condition and seemed happier there. We appreciate that Dorothy took the time to keep in contact. My aunt Ethel Golab remembers the family since they lived next door when she was raised there. Ethel has many interesting stories about that time; she is now a very young 95 years.

Email from www.B26.com: Michael Smith from www.B26.com sent me an Email about friends of George Blancard that had posted a memorial on that site. I had previously posted information there and have the usual one page story upon request. I then received a phone call from Harvey Kaufman (now age 92) who had remembered George as a friend from before World War II. They had both enlisted in the Army Air Corps and went to flight school at Cal-Aero in Chino, California. The Chino site is preserved as the Planes of Fame aviation museum, and the airmen who passed through there are honored. Harvey became a B26 bombardier and George became a B26 pilot. They both served in North Africa. Harvey had interesting stories to tell about their friendship before the war and his experiences during the war. He was sad to hear about George passing in a training crash.

Board Games: Chris and Louis play a lot of European style board games. One of my rules for such games is that there can be no dice rolling or card shuffling during the game. The second Saturday and preceding Friday are games hosted by Bill Beyermann. There, we mostly play Mayfair "crayon" rail games with various Earth and Space locations. On Sunday afternoon about once a month, our friend Tony Leal hosts games. Tony has created many good, complex games that require some thoughtful analysis. He has resisted my entreaties to publish these. Jay Christensen always brings some new games from his vast collection. We attempt to understand the rules and critique the selected game of the day. We also play games on one weekend a month with our friends Tricia and Dennis Smith. This session is usually something like Agricola, Thurn and Taxis, TransEuropa, Vegas Showdown, 10 days in Asia, Africa, or Europe, Hand and Foot, and Pinochle. Lunch and Dinner are components of the experience.

We hope 2013 brings you what you really want. Happy New Year!

**Louis George Newman, Chris
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