



Gord & Marilyn at El Castillo in Belize, April, 98

## Adventures in Belize end in a Flash

After three hot, dusty weeks in Belize, the Browns looked forward to the cool retreat of a Canadian Airlines jet that waited to take them from Miami to Toronto then on to Vancouver. As the doors were closed in preparation for departure, Gord quipped, "There must be something wrong, everything has been on time." Marilyn gave him a wry smile as the Captain announced that the take-off would be delayed for 20 minutes because of an approaching storm. Heavy rain, lightning and thunder followed. As Marilyn peered into the darkness waiting for a torrent of rain to pass, there was a clap of thunder and a shower of sparks just ahead of her window. The passengers were ordered off the plane. As they disembarked, the Browns noticed that lightning had punched a three inch hole in the side of the plane which was promptly removed from service. During a comfortable evening at the Radisson, Miami, (paid for by the airline), they relived the event through the 11 o'clock news. Next day they were flown the short route to Vancouver through Dallas --- their luggage went to Toronto!

It was an exciting finish to a trip that took them all through Belize and Guatemala. Home base for the first week was Windy Hill resort located close to the Guatemalan border. The resort consisted of large, comfortable cottages spread over several acres of manicured lawn and tropical shrubbery. The first morning, Gord was startled out of a sound sleep by a friendly Woodpecker hammering on the wall of their cottage at 5:00AM. During breakfast that morning, Gord quietly slipped the grapefruit

knife into his pocket and asked the resort owner if Woodpeckers were an endangered species.

There were Mayan temples everywhere, but the primary destination was the famous ruins at Tikal in Guatemala. There were no road signs along the dusty 100 km ride over unpaved roads but it was reported by Gord that you didn't need signs --- distances in Belize could easily be measured by how sore your butt was. An army escort was provided as far as the border and then on into Guatemala --- protection against banditos who rob the tourists regularly. Plans to rent a car and tour the rest of the mainland were abandoned in favour of a more relaxing week at Ambergris Caye. They spent the remainder of their vacation relaxing by the pool, scuba diving, exploring the Cayes by "golf cart" and spending warm tropical evenings listening to the local Rasta Bands. On the last leg of their trip, Gord & Marilyn attended the annual Cashew Festival at Crooked Tree Village on the Mainland. Complete with a Cashew Queen, the festival resembled an old fashioned country fair. There was Cashew wine, Cashew cake, Cashew pie, and even Cashew jam. Chicken, barbecued on an outdoor grill, was served with a local dish of rice & beans cooked in Coconut cream. It was reported that Gord tried it all without ill effect.

The last two days were spent at the Fort Street Guest House, a great cultural experience --- no air conditioning. With temperatures that exceeded 110 F (45 C), the Browns were anxious to get on with the trip home. Loading up the souvenirs, they headed for the airport.

## Gord and Golf... not yet!

Sources close to home report that several attempts to get Gord away from the water and onto the golf course have failed. A few sessions on the driving range while attending a Brother Bonding weekend at Whistler this summer were not enough to trigger the golf bug. Outside of Divemaster duties with students, SCUBA this year has taken him to dive sites all over the BC coast. Diving mostly in the San Juans, other notable sites were Campbell River, Gabriola Island, Half Moon Bay, Port Hardy, and many others.

Grandson, Ben, is now in training as beach support person and brings his Grandma along to help gather shells, sticks and things. "Things" are usually

## Saoranach e'Eirinn (Citizen of Ireland)

Marilyn recently learned that she was an Irish citizen because her mother was born in Ireland. She is now the proud owner of an Irish Passport.



Word has it that she is in training for a visit to Ireland. Her and Gord are on their 6th lesson of Tai Chi. The promise of exercise, balance, peace of mind, and longevity have been an inspiration. Plans to join the local Tai Chi club fell through, however, when it was learned that the Grand Master died at 50 years of age.

## Mathew Gordon Clancey

joined the family on July 29, 1998 and weighed in at seven pounds thirteen ounces. Now almost four months old, he has put on 10 pounds and is healthy and happy --- so is Mom!



With one Grandson to carry his tanks and the other to carry his weight belt, it was reported that Gord has already booked SCUBA lessons for the boys.

# scuba corner



Helping Grandpa out of the water

slimy or crawly and she has threatened to exclude him from her will if he doesn't stick with shells and sticks. They take him swimming as often as possible and, at 31/2 years old, his passion is the big water slide.

## Ketchikan cruise again??

The Browns will try, once again, to make it to Ketchikan in May, 1999. On the first try, they were upgraded to a full week and visited four other ports in Alaska but never made it to Ketchikan. No news on upgrades yet but 40 friends, who had witnessed the incredible upgrade, have decided to join them.

## New Copier Company



## Mitch starts new Company

Compro Business Solutions opened it's doors for business this year. Mitch spent a year away from the copier industry and has returned to open his own copier business in the Fraser Valley. He is a dealer for Sharp Copiers and Fax and is quickly finding out how difficult it is to do business in B.C.

QUESTION: If I want to open a business in BC, who is the first person that I should talk to.

ANSWER: A Psychiatrist.

## - Basic Business Systems -

Gord's computer business is reported to be doing well as he moves away from selling hundreds of computers every month and more toward the network consulting side of the business.