



Some more news from Curtis in Korea

Recently we have received from Birdy two additional communications from Curtis. As you can see, he is having a great time in Korea, almost like a vacation, only it's all paid for by the Army.

Sorry it took me so long to write you, but it has been a hectic week and I haven't been in the office at all so I haven't written any e-mail to anyone. Just ask Susan. We are very busy here because there is a very big Korean holiday called Chusok next week, and we have traveled out to meet with our sources to give them Chusok gifts. Also, we are writing reports on those meetings and stuff. This next week promises to be just as hectic. I have some pictures to e-mail you but I am not allowed to bring a camera or removable storage media into the office because this is a secure location. So, I will have to wait until I get a computer out here and internet in my room. blah. I am still looking at laptops but I need more money before I can get one and right now we have to pay for deposits on all of Susan's utilities. It sucks having both of us moving to a new place at the same time because we are both incurring those annoying first time move in expenses. But it will work out over time. I have an address now, I gave it to Susan, but I don't have it on me. But you can mail me stuff. It is an APO address so it works like an address in the US. Essentially when you mail something to an APO address it gets sent to the nearest military post and then Uncle Sam pays whatever it costs to get it to me. Susan said she would e-mail you my address but if she hasn't give her a call and nag her. I miss home very much. I am having fun over here, shopping is cool and Korea is a very neat country. I hope to get some more time off in the near future and go down to Pusan to visit some museums. The train and Subway system here is great; you can get anywhere pretty cheaply. Train tickets across the peninsula are about \$7 and subway tickets are \$1 apiece. The trains here are very clean and nice, if anything they remind me of airplanes. They have people going up and down the aisles selling snacks. There is a pretty cool system of seat tracking though because each seat is in the computer and so if you are going far all the seats may be booked until a certain stop maybe halfway down and then you will have a seat from that stop onward, but because it is all in the computer you know where and when you will have a seat before you board. Waegwan is a small and dirty city, but it is close to Taegu, which is the 3rd largest city in Korea, so we go to Taegu when we can. Pusan is a great city but it takes about 2 hours on a train to get there. My Korean class is going really well. I am going to enroll in some online classes through the University of Maryland once I get my computer, which will be nice. I will probably set up a degree program though the University of Maryland to get a bachelor's degree in History and then start working towards a master's in Education. I have been working with a counselor here to get a degree plan together for that. Well, that is all the news that you can use from the peninsula. I love you all and I will talk to you later. Tell Dad I said hi. I don't know how much free time I will have until after Chusok but hopefully I will be able to give you a call soon. -Curtis

Wow, it has been busy here in Korea. All last week I worked late every night in preparation for the Chusok holiday. We had meetings all last week giving Chusok gifts to different people that we talk too. I got collected on severely by Korean intelligence last week too, which was kinda fun. We have written a lot of reports, so I haven't been able to go out on the town much. I did go down to Taegu over the weekend, and I bought a computer. It isn't anything nice, but it was really cheap. I found a good hookup. The computer is a 1.7 Ghz Pentium 4 with 512 MB of PC2700. It has a CD drive and a DVD/CD-R combo drive. And

it came with a highly legal burnable copy of Windows XP with a Corporate CD key and office XP. So if you want some copies I can give you some. It also came with a 17in monitor and a keyboard and mouse, all for \$400. Not too shabby. Only problem is the sound doesn't work. I know what the problem is, when the guy loaded the drivers for the soundboard he didn't realize that the soundcard was disabled in the BIOS and so not all of the drivers loaded. When you activate the card the computer wants to go on the internet to get the drivers but I don't have internet yet. So I have to wait until I can hook it up to get the right drivers. I already tried getting the sound drivers off of the internet and installing them but it kept reading them as the wrong ones. So I will just have to wait and let windows find the right ones. That was basically my big weekend. I am very, very busy here at work, I have more reports to write and I am exhausted. I will probably work late again tonight. I'll write you guys again soon. I did get to see Survivor though, it is on Friday nights here. So that is exciting. It was an interesting episode. OK, I gotta go now. I love you guys, and I will write you again as soon as I can. - Curtis

Recently Birdy was able to get from the Internet some background information about Camp Carroll, where Curtis is stationed. It is quite detailed, so we have extracted the more interesting facts.

Camp Carroll – South Korea

On 1 July 1950, a small force of American soldiers known as Task Force Smith landed at Pusan on the southern coast of the Republic of Korea. There they began a dramatic march north to meet an invading army in a land that, at the time, could not be more remote in the minds of the Americans people. In the years that have followed, United States Forces Korea (USFK) soldiers have stood in combat and in vigilance with the forces of the Republic of Korea to protect the homes, lives, and freedom of the Korean people.

Construction of Camp Carroll began in 1959. The installation is named in honor of Sergeant First Class Charles F. Carroll of the 72nd Combat Engineer Company, 5th Infantry Regiment, who died in action during the Korean War. Carroll was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism.

Camp Carroll is a small camp in central Korea situated approximately one hour North of Taegu in Waegwan, South Korea. Even though it is a small community, Camp Carroll still maintains a full service Fitness Center (with indoor and outdoor pools), a small Commissary, PX, Shoppette, Food Court, and All Ranks Club. Military shuttle bus services run to and from Taegu and afford soldiers the opportunity to take advantage of the full size facilities there.

The Camp consists of 546 acres in the Nak Tong River Valley, approximately one-quarter mile east of the historic Nak Tong River. The terrain is hilly, with surrounding mountains. Weather is similar to that of the Midwestern United States - hot and humid in the summer, cold and windy in the winter. The total population is approximately 2,700. Of that, US military personnel number approximately 1,200, or 44 percent. Other members of the community include Department of Defense civilians, Korean National employees, (KATUSAs), and non-command sponsored family members.

Camp Carroll is dominated by warehouses and lots. One of its primary functions is to house millions of dollars in war reserve stocks, including everything from tanks to tools. Giant garages house repair facilities where wheeled equipment weighing several tons can be disassembled, or a sensitive electronic circuit board

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can be checked for invisible cracks. Other features include those structures normally found on a military installation, barracks, snack bars, a commissary, a movie theater, post exchange, etc.

Personnel assigned to Camp Carroll have the opportunity not only to work with US personnel, but also with Korean military personnel, American civilians, and Korean civilians. The Korean soldiers are part of the Korean Augmentation to the US Army (KATUSA) program, in which selected ROK Army enlisted personnel are assigned to the US Army. KATUSA are fully integrated into their units--working, training, and living with American soldiers.

Thanks, Birdy, for this interesting description of the place where Curtis is serving his first military assignment.

By pure chance, Grandpa and Grandma ran into Susan at Fashion Valley Center on Sunday afternoon, as we were heading for the movie. She was doing some power shopping with a girl friend, and we had a nice talk. She reported that Curtis will be coming home for a three weeks leave in February of 2006. I am sure we all look forward to a coming home party where we can hear first hand all about his experiences in Korea.

Listy and Bob move to new home

No, Listy and Bob are not moving away from San Diego. However, they have closed the deal on the new vacation home in Palomar, and have officially moved in by stocking the new place with all the necessary personal items needed. Since the house purchase included the furniture, all they needed was to duplicate the cooking ware, linens, tooth brushes, etc. That sounds like a great excuse for some power shopping, and we are sure Listy was more than up to the challenge. On the weekend of Saturday the 12th, with help from Birdy and Bruce, they moved everything they will need, comes a long weekend or a summer visit. We have some pictures of the entire activity.



As you can see, it was an exhausting weekend.

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Charles Schultz Philosophy



The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read the e-mail straight through and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.



How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies.

Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.



Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.



Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.



Pass this on to those people who have made a difference in your life.

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end. It's already tomorrow in Australia. Charles Schulz

The above document was sent to us by Richard, and we enjoyed it and its message so much that we wanted to pass it on in the RFNL, for everyone to enjoy.

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It's almost time for another Turkey Day celebration at the Mehan home

Once again the family is invited By Bud and Margaret to celebrate another Thanksgiving Day (the 24th) at their home in Encinitas. As usual, we can gather around 11:00 am for snacks and talk. The main meal will be ready at about 1:00 pm. Margaret and Bud would appreciate it if you would call or e-mail and tell them what food you will be bringing. We look forward to another great family outing.

A history of waste disposal in San Diego

A year ago last summer we received the following e-mail from Curtis Hartman. At that time he had a temporary job with the SD Environmental Services Department.

Hey grandpa, this is Curtis. I know that you expressed some interest in my internship with the City and with the report on the History of Solid Waste in the City of San Diego that I am researching and writing. Here is what I have so far, for your perusal. It is approximately halfway done at this point. It should prove an interesting read. It gives a very interesting perspective of the history of San Diego. Keep In mind that it is far from complete.

-Curtis

We found the report to be well written and very interesting, and for a long time we have wanted to include it in an RFNL. Since it is too long (by far) to appear in a single issue, we plan on presenting it bit by bit, as space permits.

Introduction

In 1769 Fr. Junipero Serra founded the Mission San Diego de Alcalá and began the process that created modern day San Diego. Over the centuries that followed the small pueblo experienced massive growth and change, eventually becoming the seventh largest city in the US. Changes in how refuse has been handled through these years provide a sharp insight into the growing environmental awareness that has become so prominent in the American public consciousness. In the late 1700's refuse consisted almost exclusively in food waste and other wet matter. As society became more industrialized

people generated a new type of waste: rubbish (disposable products such as cans, glass, and later plastics). As mechanization increased, the ratio of garbage to rubbish has shifted dramatically. In addition, growing population and increases in rubbish resulted in a much larger waste stream. The difficulty lies in the fact that rubbish is far less easy to dispose of than garbage. While wet food matter decays fairly quickly, much of the rubbish stream consists in items that take many years to decay (if they can be broken down at all). Also, with each passing year scientists are finding more environmentally sound ways to dispose of waste. The need to control the destination of this waste stream in order to ensure its proper disposal has resulted in the need for the current highly sophisticated means of disposal. San Diego now has one of the most advanced and efficiently run waste disposal systems in all of the United States. City employees continually score high in overall customer satisfaction and efficiency. At the same time, the City of San Diego collects waste with no direct charge to the customer. This is because of an ordinance passed in 1919 called "The People's Ordinance" which prohibits the City from charging for the collection services it provides. This ordinance, passed in response to the pressures and conditions in the City at the time, has radically shaped the way the City has handled waste.

Early Days

During the period from 1769 when the first mission in Alta California was established through Mexican independence in 1821, Spanish colonial misrule contributed a great deal towards keeping San Diego from becoming a major city (and so a major waste producer). The Spanish monarch Philip the II squandered the massive wealth extracted from the New World on projects like the Armada and the Escorial; placing the wealthiest kingdom in Europe in bankruptcy. Had the Spanish government invested in domestic industry rather than importing British and French goods with their newfound wealth, they would have been able to use their colonies in the New World as a source for raw materials for the industrial factories. As a result, the Spanish colonization efforts, such as the mission movement, created marginally self sufficient pastoral societies that did not play a significant role in the Spanish imperial economy.

To be continued in a future RFNL.