Memories of Claude's Latin American trip

THIS IS the loading dock at Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Claude and his friends bought most of their food at local open-air markets.

Hoodlander Claude Gudge has just returned from a three month travel through Mexico, British Honduras and Guatemala.

During the trip, Claude sent back many letters to the Post and these were edited and condensed and appeared in the Post.

His trip included stops along the Baja and Yucatan Peninsulas in Mexico; Mazatlon, Mexico City, Acapulco, Taxco, Toluca, Guadalajara, LaPaz, Isla Mujeres, Chetumal, Cozumel, Chemax and Tulum in Mexico; and Belize, British Honduras and Guatemala City, Guatemala.

The trip was made in Claude's van and most of the time was spent traveling on unimproved roads.

"I had to make several runs at hills before we were able to make it up and over them," said Claude referring to the condition of the roads.

On this trip, he renewed friendships with several persons he had met on a similar trip in recent years.

Some of the highlights of his trip included the contact with the local people and discovering about the culture of these Latin Americans. This included the visit to many Mayan ruins.

Claude and his companions spent their nights either sleeping in the van alongside the roads or in trailer parks and occasionally stopped at a hotel for a night of "luxury."

Claude believes this is the way to travel "if you really want to see a country and meet the people."

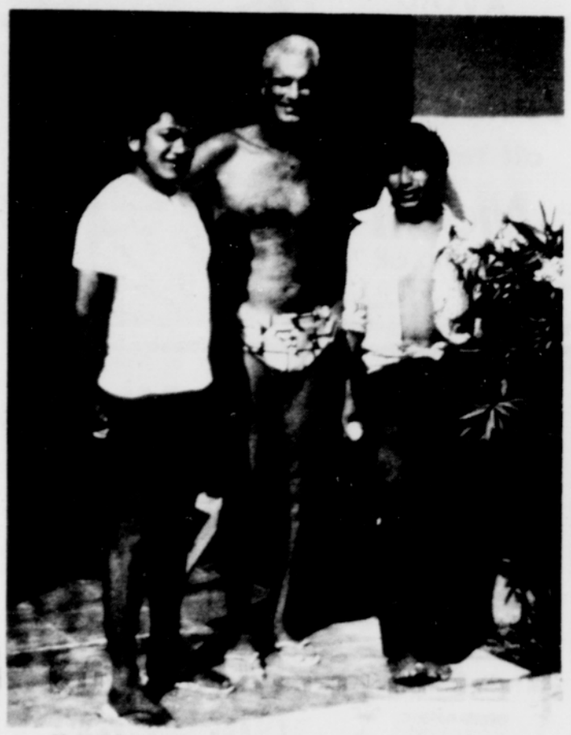
Claude has been home several weeks now and already is thinking of his next trip. And to help the thinking of another trip along one of his traveling friends from Canada paid him a visit this weekend.

The photographs on this page (except the ones of Claude himself) were taken by Claude on this trip.

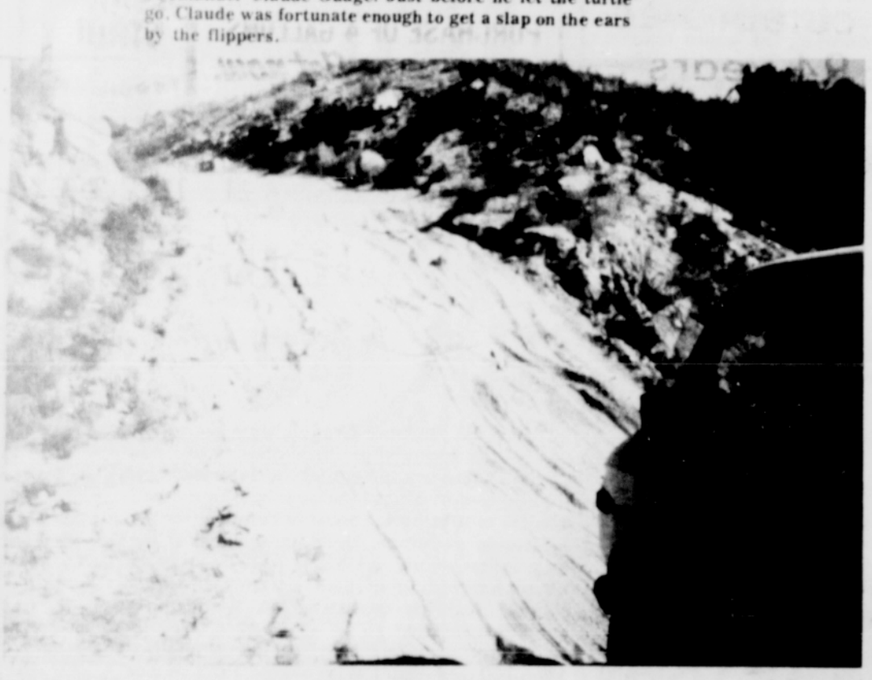
CLAUDE HELPS himself to some honey near Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico. He is surrounded by 'no bite' bees he hopes.

TRYING TO GET a free ride from a giant turtle is Hoodlander Claude Gudge. Just before he let the turtle go, Claude was fortunate enough to get a slap on the ears by the flippers.

CLAUDE HAS A beer with some of the Marine contingent at the lighthouse of Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Sgt. Miguel de Angeles is in charge of the outfit.



CLAUDE VISITS with the manager of the Xul-ha Hotel. The hotel is located at Isla Mujeres, Q.R.



THIS WAS A typical site along the roads in the Baja. This sand hill was made on the second try as Claude had to use low gear.

HERE TOURIST Claude visits with a draft horse. This horse belongs to the team owned by the Carta Blanca Beer Company of Merida, Mexico. (Claude is the white haired one on the right.)

THIS IS the daughter of Tony Martinez Colunet. Her home is in Baja Norte. She is one-fourth Chinese and three-fourths Mexican.

THIS IS what the Baja roads were like which Claude traveled over both ways on his trip into the Latin American countries.

PEDRO MAAS Kumul of Chemax, Quintana Roo, Mexico was the "Arriero" (mule driver) for the 1965 expedition by Claude into Mexico. Claude visited with him on this trip.

THIS IS a Mayan lady in native dress at Chemax, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

AT A CATTLE ranch near Tizimin, Quintana Roo, Mexico, Claude was able to see a native Mayan dance. Although, the dancing was done without native customs.

A BIG wash out like that on the right hand side of the photograph was common along the roads Claude had to travel during his three month trip.

CLAUDE, CENTER, and his Marine friends at the lighthouse at Tulum pose for the camera.