

Lois Clayton History

by *Lois Clayton Colton*

March 24, 2012

I am working on digitizing my journals and life. I began on 21 Feb 2012.

For the latest version please go to:

<http://loiscolton.com/histories/loisclayton/>

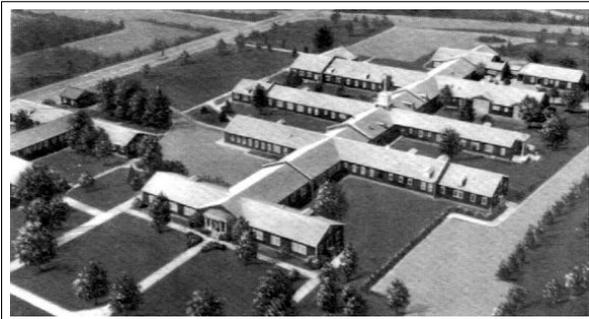
Lois

Lois Ann Clayton's History

I was born on December 11, 1953 at Kadlec Methodist Hospital in Richland, Benton, Washington.

"In the 1950s, the hospital underwent a major change, going from being owned by the United States government to being operated by the Methodist Church and it was renamed Kadlec Methodist Hospital.

Kadlec remains the only hospital in the state of Washington and only one of few in the country which began as a government medical facility and was turned back to the citizens to be operated as a not-for-profit institution." - http://www.kadlecmed.org/about/kadlec_history.html



My father, Aubrey Wright Clayton, was a school teacher at the time.



My mother's maiden name was Doris Marie Sundstrom.



When I was born I had only one living grandparent, Esther Elvira Sundstrom, formerly Östlund.



She lived in Tacoma, WA, and would take the bus to visit us. She came after I was born. Later I discovered that I had one living great-grandparent, but I never knew that.

My family had been blessed with two boys before me, Dennis Paul Clayton, five, and David Lloyd Clayton, three.



Being the youngest and the only girl had its advantages. My brothers gave me the "big brother" image and rarely excluded me from anything. Because of this our family tended to be a very close family.

When I was born I lived at 1305 Sanford, Richland, Washington $46d\ 17'10.32''N\ 119d\ 17'41.37''W$ and at three months my family moved to 904 Davenport, Richland, Washington. $46d\ 16'9.19''N\ 119d\ 16'43.25''W$

I lived in Richland until I was nineteen. I love that city very much. Richland is a medium-sized city, started by a government during World War II. Several nuclear reactors are located north of town. To the east of the city flows the magnificent Columbia River, with the Yakima River emptying into it to the south of town. <http://allgallery.tripod.com/>

Our family was always taking long summer camping vacations. It was great for adventure and drawing our family close together. Among my earliest memories are those of my family being together with relatives.

I remember going to see my uncle, Lloyd Conrad Sundstrom and his wife Vesta Poulsen Sundstrom when I was 1.5 years old. I always thought I was 2.5 but the picture has a date on it.



They lived on Vashon Island just off the coast of Tacoma, Washington in Puget Sound. They lived in a long house that ran north and south. My brothers pushed me around the house in a red wheelbarrow while a German Shepard dog watched from across the street. The dog was diagonally across the intersection from the Sundstrom home. It was on a little hill in their front yard. I was afraid of the dog, and don't like that bred of dog even now. That may be in part because at 17 I was attacked by one. The yard across the street to the north of Sundstrom's had a large garden. I could imagine Peter Rabbit and Mr. McGregor over there running around the garden.

$47d\ 25'17.85''N\ 122d\ 26'12.69''W$

When I was four years old, I went to a nursery school run by a Mrs. Paulsen. Her house had a large tall red fence surrounding it, and I imagined that the ten little Indians sat on it.

That year had it's accidents: Getting hit on the head with a toy gun, having casts on both my legs, and getting my tonsils out. I had to have the casts on because I was pigeon-toed that that was one way of correction. One day, as I was going down the steps into the basement nursery school, I slipped and fell,

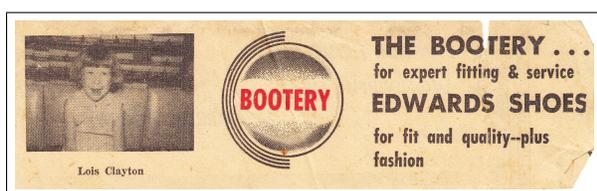
hitting my head on a desk at the bottom. My mother said that I blacked out.

Nursery was fun. We finger painted, watched movies, ate Hi-Hos and drank Kool-aid out of Dixie cups. I'm sure we must have done a lot more than that, but I don't remember.

When I was playing a game with my neighbor's I got hit over the head with the butt of the toy gun. It cut me and I dashed home with blood pouring out of the top of my head. I remember sitting in the bathtub, and somehow we got the bleeding to stop.

My brother, David, and I got our tonsils out on the same day. I had a lot of ear problems until I was five or so. I guess I was sick often enough that they thought taking the tonsils out would help. It was done at Kadlec Hospital, and they put me to sleep with Ether. I remember fighting the person putting the mask over my face so I would fall asleep. I felt like I couldn't breathe. After I woke up my throat hurt. They fed me ice cream and milk. They tasted terrible at the same time.

After I had casts on my legs to correct my being 'pigeon-toed', I had corrective shoes. They always came in ugly brown. If they came in any other color, I didn't know, and I didn't get them. I always got my shoes at The Bootery, which wasn't cheap shoes, but my feet were so narrow. I think my feet were AA in the front and 3A or 4A in the heel. Shoes have always been a problem to me, and so mostly I have enjoyed going barefoot my whole life. I was pictured in a newspaper ad for The Bootery, and the picture is horrendous, but here it is.



Mrs. Badgett taught my Kindergarten class at Lewis and Clark School.

pic to be added: *class photo*

It was her second year of teaching school and she wasn't much taller than her students. I remember having a gray rug to lie on at nap time. One day during nap time Sharon Tisdale was taking books off the shelf and looking through them. I got out the door to see if I could see my teacher, and sure

enough she'd just rounded the corner and saw me. She got really mad.

We had a doll house in the corner, but I liked it better when we studied at the blackboard. We learned letters and numbers. My mother gave me a green alphabet book. I had a friend named James Fowler; we would color the words by the letters to show our parents what we had learned. Our mothers were worried but impressed. I remember how I kept coloring those words so that my mother would think I was smart. I did not know them at the time, but I did learn them faster than the other words because I felt guilty and really did want to be smart.

During my Kindergarten year on Valentine's Day, I was walking home with my valentines and did not notice some cement blocks that were lying on the sidewalk. I tripped and hit my chin on some blocks piled to the side. *4616'8.78"N 11916'34.23"W* I remember getting up, the blood gushing from my face, and thinking that I had to get home to my mother. I did not run; I just walked. My biggest concern was not wanting my valentine's to get ruined. I don't remember meeting my mother, nor receiving the stitches.

In the first grade I had a deep interest in secular subjects. I would have my mother help me every night with my school work. I loved learning. It was a challenge to be the best in the class, and I probably never made it. I especially loved to read. I found that when I started reading, I got lost in the world.



My first grade teacher was Mrs. Phillips. She must have been an amazing teacher. I had her for first and third grade. One of those grades she brought a popcorn popper to the classroom and spread out

a huge blanket on the floor. She put the popcorn popper on it and let it pop without the lid on. As you can imagine we loved that a lot. She probably told us that if it snowed she would let us eat popcorn. It didn't snow as often in Richland as kids would like. I remember sitting in the front row of desks and I could not see the writing on the blackboard. I told my mom that I needed glasses, but she thought I wanted them because another girl in the class had gotten them recently. None of the girls in my first or second grade class pictures are wearing glasses. To this day, I have no idea who that girl was. I am kind of surprised that the teacher didn't convince my parents, but that was many years ago.

In second grade I did get glasses. I sure needed them. As the years passed my eyes got worse, and the prescriptions got stronger. Marlene Donahue was in my second grade class. She had been adopted by a family and we became friends. I was to spend many years at her home, and her at mine until we graduated from High School. Even after High School we got together a couple of times, but she married young. I've kind of felt sad that I don't even know where she's living now. She wasn't a very bright girl, and her family protects her from herself and others. That's good, but I would like to see her again. In second grade I was done with my math, and she was struggling. She asked me a question so I was helping explain it to her. My teacher heard me and I go into trouble. I think it's sad that the classroom has to be so quiet, and they want parents to help, but not classmates. I wasn't very fond of my second grade teacher. I don't think she really knew what to do with me. I was usually done quickly with my schoolwork. I didn't cause any trouble except trying to help others, but I don't remember being stimulated that year either. I did love going to music class, though. I remember learning to sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and some other songs. I suppose they were part of the American "cultural" experience, or maybe it was European History? Anyway, back then we could sing songs like that at school.



In third grade life was wonderful again. I had Mrs. Phillips. I loved that teacher. Her solution to "what to do with Lois" was to send me to the Kindergarten class to read Black Beauty to them. There were two of us that were picked to do that. I don't know if we were both in Mrs. Phillips class, or if the other person was from another third grade class. After Thanksgiving that year, Mrs Phillips had us make a mural on butcher paper attached to the wall. It seems like it was about forty feet long, but I don't really know how long it was. It was long. It had all kinds of things on it relating to winter. I know someone got to draw a fireplace and mantle on it. Maybe it had stockings. I don't recall. It was a very fun project. to be found

pic to be added: *3grade.jpg*

Our classroom was in the long main hallway that ran north and south. Just south of our room was a long hallway that ran west, past my second grade classroom on the left and my kindergarten classroom on the right. The music room was at the end of the hallway. When you got to the end, if you turned right, heading north you got to the cafeteria. It was very large.



The whole school, except the special education children would sit in there at once. They had a cafe-

teria there that actually made all our food. The food was wonderful. We had yummy food like hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, spaghetti, and chili <http://alumnisandstorm.com/Recipes/RecChili.htm>, and cinnamon rolls. <http://loiscolton.com/1999/cinnam.htm> The cinnamon rolls were huge, and almost everyone ate hot lunch on chili and cinnamon roll days. I do remember in third grade we had spaghetti and bread. I made some comment about worms, and my teacher did not appreciate that at all. I think I was a little to out spoken in my creative thoughts.

Some time in Elementary School (it seemed like forever) I finally got to be able to wear oxfords instead of corrective shoes. I got a beautiful black pair of oxfords that were like velvet. I loved to look at them, but I was mad that didn't get to wear shoes like other girls, so I was a brat and walked home from school in the gutter and got them all wet. I don't recall if I ruined them or not, but it was not nice. They were much nicer than any pair of shoes I had owned before.



It seems that every other year I liked my teacher, and on the even number years I didn't care for them. So fourth grade, as you can imagine, I didn't particularly care for my teacher, Mrs. Roppe. We had a section of study on the American Indians. My mother made a black yarn wig, and sewed a dress for me. pic tba. I was rather pleased that I looked so well in my costume. That day my teacher thought I was talking to someone next to me. This time I was actually innocent, and she made me sit in the corner. I was so mad and humilliated.

Throught the grade school years we often had a movie at school where the whole school got to go into

the large gym and watch. We watched Toby Tyler, So Dear to My Heart?, Bambi, and Pollyanna. They always seemed to be such tramatic movies for me. I loved Pollyanna, though, until she started climbing the tree. My great Great Aunt Mary gave me a set of lamps that had plastic prisms hanging from a round part. They always reminded me of the scene in Polyanna where she hangs lamp prisms across the window.



My brothers always said that Great Aunt Mary showed a preference to me since I was a girl. Since I don't recall them getting anything besides silver dollars, it must be true. Great Aunt Mary was my mom's father's sister. She was a very great lady that always read her bible her whole life. She married later in life and had no children. I loved my Great Aunt Mary. She was facinating.

I was rather a quiet child, and I enjoyed just watching people. I believe that was a psychological course in itself. My parents tried to develop self-esteem and independence in each of us. We were given responsibilities and were making decisions for ourselves very early. We had our say in the choice of where we went on vacation; almost everything we did together.

Every Sunday we would get dressed up and go to church together. We went to Central United Protestant Church, which was Methodist in affiliation. I went to both Sunday School and church. We learned the basics about Jesus, his apostles, adn some of his doctrine. We learned and heard all about the parables and other stories. We discussed the trinity and our salvation. I believe that I also had divine teach-

ing concerning the divinity and teachings of God. I always believed that God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost were different persons, Jesus Christ and God having physical characteristics.



In Fourth grade I started developing my talents (or lack of them). I took violin lessons at school in grades 4-6. When we performed for all our parents, I think we must have sounded horrible. But the parents loved us and thought we were wonderful. I took synchronized swimming, and our team would perform. We actually competed a couple of times. I did terrible in competition. My lack of self esteem showed up obviously there. I loved swimming and so it was a great sport for me. Unfortunately, all those years under the water looking around didn't help me, and I developed an allergy to pool chemicals. Since I couldn't see without glasses and my eyes burned horribly after being under water, I eventually quit swimming under the water with my eyes open. Since I loved swimming so much, I would just swim with my head above water and my eyes open. As I got to be an adult, I'd leave my glasses on and swim looking like an "old lady."

My mom taught me to sew, starting in the fourth grade. She started me out on a Necci, sewing on a spiral drawn on a piece of paper. It seemed like I had to practice that way forever before I actually got to sew anything. I must not have been a particular seamstress, and my mother was. Often our sessions would end up with me crying and both of us picking out seams. As the years passed I got better and picked out less. Mom enrolled in 4-H, and Mrs.

Crane was our teacher and leader. We would have both cooking and sewing at her home. It was so fun! We would sew outfits and compete in 4-H shows. My first pair of regular "church" shoes was in the sixth grade when I sewed a suit for a 4-H competition and modeled the suit. I won a campership to camp that year. I think I did that for a couple of years. I hope I can find some pictures of those clothes I made.



Fifth grade was wonderful. I had a teacher that was so creative and inspired children. My brother, Dave, had also had Mrs. Brinkman. She said there were no pudding stones around Richland. We found some, and thus, every where we went we looked for pudding stones. Then we'd take them to her house. Her pathway around her home was totally lined with pudding stones. She must have loved us a lot to put them there, and leave them there. She had us memorize poetry. That was so fun. I memorized "September" by Helen Hunt Jackson, <http://www.poetry-archive.com/j/september.html> and then "October" by Helen Hunt Jackson <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/october-s-bright-blue-weather/>. For another poem I chose "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." (which is not based on total truth, but it's still a great poem) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4hUMQG3MI8> In fourth through sixth grade we had a different playground than in first through third grade. We would play Chinese jump rope, jacks, and hang by the bars that you cross over. There was also the old Richland High School next to the school property and I liked to go find the coal clinkers there on my way to and from school. I remember watching the big wrecker ball knock the school down.



I did not like my sixth grade teacher, Mr. Lane. I don't think he liked girls. I don't think he liked being a teacher. He did like to take us outside and have us play baseball. I was lousy at baseball. I couldn't hit the bat when it was my turn at bat. Mr. Lane made fun of three of us that chewed out fingernails. He made fun of other people. I was rather proud of one talk I had to give in class. It was a demonstration talk, and I did mine on how to waterproof fabric. I used Amway's waterproof spray. I thought my talk turned out very well. One thing he did that was rather smart was that he was always trying to get us to read the information on the bulletin board in the classroom. Of course, we didn't. He put all the answers to a test on the board. He left it up there for several days, I think. Then he gave us the test. We did not do very well. Then he yelled at us a lot. I survived the year.

From the time I learned to read, I studied the Old and the New Testament a lot. In these books, I discovered truths never spoken about in most churches. In Revelations, it talks about the three kingdoms of heaven. I believed this but no one could explain it to me. It was another one of the "mysteries" that I believed but could not understand.

In the seventh grade, I went to Carmichael Junior High School in Richland, at which my father taught math and science. At this time in my life I decided I was too shy and introverted. In the eighth grade, I got to be an office assistant. This meant that I had to walk into every classroom in the school and deliver notes to the teachers. I remember standing outside most doors trying to get brave enough to open the door and walk in, knowing that everyone would be looking at me.

I also started saying "hello" to people and trying to get to know them better. I got involved in church groups more. I studied the Methodist Doctrine and became a member of Central United Protestant Church. I read more and found more errors in the Methodist thinking.

The summer before I went to Columbia High School (also known as Richland High School) for my sophomore year, I went out with a few boys and became disgusted with the opposite sex.

I realized some more truths about the divinity of Christ. I was out hiking with my family and friends. We were hiking up the side of a mountain, and knowing the general area, I decided to take the old eight per cent trail instead of the new four per cent trail. Suddenly, I noticed that I was in the middle of a rock slide. I looked up the mountain and down. One slip and I'd probably have a broken leg at the bottom. I looked ahead of me and behind. I was exactly half way. The trail was about eight inches wide and very rocky. I prayed for guidance, sure footing, and the strength to make it. Every few feet I would stop and pray again. After crossing some slippery snow, I made it to the top. I fell down on my knees and thanked God. I was so grateful that tears poured from my eyes and fell all over me.

As a result of the experience, I realized how much God really cares for each one of us. he was a much more personal God than I had realized. I think that my thirst for truth started that day. That was July 13, 1969.

1 Meeting Don - 12 Jan 1970

At school the teachers had a stack of textbooks that they would assign us each semester. Inside there were numbers that the teacher recorded in her book. At the end of the semester or school year you had to turn in that same book or they would charge you for a lost book. I always liked to see who had the book number before mine and after mine. On the first day of the second semester of Frau Maberry's German class she handed out the books. I looked for the person before me and after me as usual. I was book 53, which is also the year that I was born. The person that had book 54 was sitting behind me and over a row. I turned around and looked at him and we smiled at each other. I did not know him,

but later learned that his name was Don Colton. We liked to have competitions to see who could get better grades in German class. It was great fun.

2 Paradise Ponderings

Jan 2, 2011 Lois: We've had an enjoyable week of celebrating, relaxing, partying, etc. I enjoyed having people over to play with Don's trains. It's fun to watch the kids interact with the trains. I also really enjoyed the Fireworks this year. The highlight were the 24 or so lanterns that went sailing thru the sky. I made about 35 minutes of movies. Then my arms were too tired from holding up the camera. I had a hard time selecting which movies to send to a web page, but finally pared it down to about seven. LOL Not much of a small list. :-)
<http://loiscolton.com/2010/laie/newyearsfireworks/>
<http://loiscolton.com/2010/trains/>

Jan 9, 2011 Lois: The Christmas decorating season is over. Hopefully we will keep Christmas in our heart all year long. But the tree is down, the train is put away. I had a twinge of feeling old today as I thought once again that I've lived through another Christmas and it won't be here for another year. Why should that make me feel old? I don't know. We are now back to our LED "night lights" and that's kind of fun, except they tend to flash sometimes. That is annoying. But it is odd having lights on day and night, not just when they are "turned on." :-)
Jordi is here, and we've been having fun together the little bit that we've had together so far. Next week she and I will spend a lot more time together. I'm looking forward to that. :-)
It was a little tough on my mom's birthday. I've had a potluck party for her about 9 or 10 times in the past 13 years. Cindy, Jordi, and I did do the all-day bus trip to Ala Moana and back. I was sure tired when I got home. It took me about three hours to revive after the trip. :-)
It was great fun, though. I put two movies up on youtube this week. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFJfRdF14z0> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s97bBJw5Qh4> I also made over web pages of pictures and movies, but not sure which ones you're already seen.

Jan 16, 2011 Lois: As Don mentioned our car was kind of slow turning over. I was hopeful that it just needed a new battery. I've never had a car that

turned slowly over when starting and then got faster and faster until it started. Maybe some of you car experts can advise me on that one. Anyway, I ended up with a new battery and I have not had a single problem with it starting since. :-)
It was making a weird whining belt noise before, and I was thinking it was gone after the new battery, but it was there today when I was driving it. Oh, well. Tomorrow I pick up Don from the airport, and Tuesday I take Jordi to the airport. This would be great if I loved driving vehicles for two hours to the airport. Some people think that I don't like to drive. It's not that at all really. It's driving decrepit vehicles that I'm not sure will make it someplace that drive me nuts. ;-)
Jordi and I have had a lot of fun being tourists this week. One day we spent all day at the Polynesian Cultural Center, doing the whole thing. Yesterday we spent all afternoon at the Kualoa Ranch. We went on the Ocean Voyaging, and the Movie Set Tour, and I made Jordi to the Jungle Expedition, but I passed on it. :-)
I love the ride, but it's not for people that have less than stellar backs. :-)
I figured she was young and could handle it. For those of you who have gone to Disneyland, the Jungle Expedition is like the Indiana Jones ride, except it lasts an hour. :-)
Oh, they do let you out to take pictures and walk a bit. It's a wonderful "ride" just not for old backs. :-)
I put up some Valentine decorations, and am enjoying them in the evenings. Party Central over here. :-)
I am NOT enjoying all the mosquitoes that we've had since it's been raining a lot lately. The last two nights I've actually put mosquito repellent on me before I climbed into bed. :-)
Life in Paradise!

Jan 23, 2011 Lois: It's good to have Don home again. It was a busy week as I went to the airport to see Don home and Jordi off to her new adventure in Texas. Here are some pictures of when she was in Hawaii. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/extended/jordi/>
Don took the bottom off my nice executive chair that had broken and replaced it with the bottom of another chair that had a broken top. It took about an hour and included banging the center hard for quite a while. That's why I think his arms are sore. :-)
Here are some pictures from Don's trip. Of course, I'm a grandma so I have to show lots of pictures of grandkids and relatives. :-)
<http://loiscolton.com/2011/family/dontripaz/>

Jan 30, 2011 Lois: Life is going okay. We had a potluck party for the School of Business, Computing,

and Government some day or week. Tonight we went to a party for a friend that's in town and tomorrow her husband interviews on campus. Then tomorrow night there will be a party at our house for them. Then later in the week we will have socials for more friends. It must be interviewing week. :-)

Feb 6, 2011 Lois: I ate well this week. I have a "tribute" to the Super Bowl at the bottom. :-) Tonight we had Chinese lanterns sailing in the sky again. They are way cool to watch. I just wonder what happens when they come down. :-) Here is a sample I found on youtube. The ones next door were red. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0QtdpgT41k>

Feb 12, 2011 Lois: We had a St. Valentine's Dinner here on Friday night. I wanted the food fancy. We had bacon wrapped scallops, quiche, shrimp cocktail platter, Ahi/Tuna steaks over cooked cabbage, broccoli salad, garnishes, and chocolate cake. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/friends/valentine/> We all gave talks in church today. It was on Home Teaching. I thought we all did very well. Isaac told me after church (fortunately) that I said that Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Gethsemane. ooops. I thought that was kind of weird of me. Oh, well, it's done. I do know where they lived. :-)

Feb 20, 2011 Lois: For Family Home Evening we played "Jones in the Fast Lane" in Flash version on the computer. It is a really old game that we used to play when our children were young. The new version (which they tried to make the same, I think) has a few bugs that make it different. They are kind of funny. Dad paid rent ahead and then his wages were garnished for not paying rent. :-) You can play four players, and I still think it's a fun game. :-) Here's the link to the new flash version. <http://home.broadpark.no/~kboye/jones/jones.html>

Don gave me a "singing telegram" on Valentine's Day. A couple of girls I know came and sang to me and gave me chocolates. Cindy was here to witness that. Don and I had a relaxing dinner and lit a taper candle. I don't light those too often in Hawaii. You have to store the candles flat and when you go to use them they could have evaporated anyway. :-) I have really enjoyed my Valentine Decorations I put up. I bought St. Patrick's Day Decor to put up this next week. I am looking forward to that. I love our new surveillance system too much. There is an interesting world outside my window. The cameras

switch to black and white with infared after dark. I like watching the bicycles go down the road after dark. The reflectors look like they gallop. :-) I have seen a couple of bikes that go around the wheels at the same time and direction, but most don't.

Feb 27, 2011 Lois: Last week or so, I decided to try and grow weeds in a pot on the porch after going to a garden club meeting on Edible Weeds in Hawaii. I'd like to report that my weeds are growing really well. :-) A friend thought I was crazy, but you can use the weeds like spinach. I figure that weeds are supposed to grow well to afflict man, so maybe I can get some use out of them. We'll see. I still have to learn how to cook or use them. :-) Another friend told us how to capture the little flies that make it so we can't grow tomatoes, squashes, like zucchini, and other favorite garden crops very well. It was great timing as I have just planted some seeds for two kinds of yellow squash. They are on their second set of leaves now. I was shocked when they spouted a few days after I planted them. :-) I figure I won't do any worse than the other times I've tried to grow squashes. :-) So we'll see. And I think I may have figured out how to grow tangerines, mandarin oranges, and other citrus fruits to actually taste good and not have bugs or ants killing the trees. I have to go to the store and buy me certain kinds of fertilizers. I am looking forward to that. I also learned that figs have multiple crops a year and the current crop that are ripening taste like junk. Then the next crop is good that is currently green. We shall see. I picked one fig today, and it's supposed to taste like junk. :-)

Mar 6, 2011 Lois: On Monday I started reading a textbook that Don uses for his HTML class. After about 27 pages I figured out how to update my old web pages and link them back together. I haven't been able to do this since I got my Windows 7 computer and it didn't have any of the programs on it that I was used to. The sad part was that I could explain it to someone in five minutes what I wasn't able to have someone else instruct me in a year. Then Don went on to help me learn how to have nine pages done in HTML 4.01 Transitional, which is a more "approved" way that I did them in the past. Then we tackled the big "front/home" page which is always scary to me. :-) It is now written in such a way to pass "XHTML 1.0 Strict" and "W3C CSS Validator". So the days work only took about 15 hours. :-) "Life in Laie" has also been approved

by the two newer ones that I call Strict and CSS. :-) So it begins. :-) I continued the week doing some pages off and on, but I was way burnt out after my initial day. :-) Fortunately, at the end of the week I had a book to read for book club. :-)

Mar 13, 2011 Lois: I had to laugh reading Don's entry about changing Daylight Savings Time versus a Tsunami. I went to bed after 4:30am that night (not sure what time it was) and was awake by 6am. It made for a very tired day. Yep, I probably looked like one of Don's zombie students. After a while I ended up taking about a 3 hour nap, but I felt drugged the rest of the day. I decided to go up behind the temple on the hill for the actual "hitting of the Tsunami" and so I went up there about 3am since it was supposed to hit at 3:14am. There were people lying all over the hill trying to sleep or actually asleep if they were lucky. I saw a lady that I Visit Teach, and we talked briefly, so I felt good to know where she was. I had ordered a DVD and two books from Amazon. They came on Friday. So Friday night I watched a six hour movie. I wasn't planning on doing it all, but Isaac had forgotten his house key at home. So I finished the movie about the time he came home. Then on Saturday I went to a great Garden Club meeting. I keep trying to improve my gardening skills in Hawaii. It's much different than the other places I've lived for growing things. In the afternoon, I read a book. So now I have one big book left to read from that Amazon order. It's the book for April's bookclub. I'm eager to read it, but I'll probably have a lot of gross parts in it. It's a book about Louis Zamperini. I watched a four part movie clip on YouTube about his life. Just that little movie was very interesting. I recommend watching it, if interested. Here's the link to part 1. "Unbroken" is the book title, by Laura Hillenbrand. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzjN9cu-TDc> The book club discussion for this book is in April and at Cindy's house. So anyone that wants to join us "long distance" is welcome. :-)

Mar 20, 2011 Lois: A Young Women I know wanted to raise money for Japan. I went to several neighbors and asked for their deposit bottles and cans. I think she came to my place as one of her first stops. Here is a video that they made of her experience. :-) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeQewQj43o4> I enjoyed Anna Marie's visit very much. It was fast. I told her that next time

she should spend more time here. :-)th We had a St. Patrick's day party on Thursday, and the Kahuku Prom was on Friday. The youth usually come over to the temple and have their picture taken while walking around the grounds. You can find both of those pages on my web page under... "Life in Laie." loiscolton.com Saturday, I tried taking pictures of the moon, and wished I had someone else's camera knowledge. :-) Oh, well, I tried. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/hobbies/superfullmoon19mar2011/>

Isaac: This week is the last full week before the play. I wish there was more time, but a part of me wants to simply get it out of the way as soon as possible. Besides that, just lots of work, school, etc. TTFN BBFN.

Mar 27, 2011 Lois: I've been having fun reading books for book club, and watching long movies with Cindy. :-) I've also been doing more gardening. I guess it's that time of year. ;-) At the end of the week, we had a surprise visit of a carriage coming down the street. Here are some close up pics of the carriage. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/carriage/> (Sat 26th: 20:18, camera 3 & 2)

Apr 3, 2011 Lois: I've been watching the red cardinals at the bird feeder. It is nice to have a feeder close to look at. The females sure look different than the nice bright red cardinals. :-) There's also a gecko that keeps running back and forth across the window sill. It must be a good day for flies in the house or something. I don't see any flies, but the gecko sure is running around. Hum.... I just noticed that there are two of them. :-) That explains it. I had a good week. Isaac did a great job on his role during the play. He stayed in character very well, and he looked tall. :-)

10 Apr 2011 Lois: I did a lot of reading this week. That was totally enjoyable. We had a lot of rain this week. We were fine though at our house. The rain hard driving through the window and waking us up was kind of different. :-) It usually just hits the louvers and falls down, not wrapping into any tiny cracks and attacking your face while sleeping. :-) Jim, Cindy, and Pops slept through the worst storm at night. I thought that was interesting. I have some wind socks I want to put up soon, so I hope it stops blowing like crazy and raining each day. :-)

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Apr 24, 2011 Lois: I was very proud of myself this week. I did not gain any weight as I ate Greek food and went to an Easter egg brunch and egg hunt. :-) Here's some pictures of both. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/laie.html> Don announced on Saturday that the van is finally dry. :-) You know how I feel about Jesus Christ, or you should, so I'll just say that I hope you have a meaningful Easter.

Apr 30, 2011 Lois: We put up our koinobori/carp/fish for boy's day. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/boysday/> Here's an article about it if you need more info: <http://www.ginkoya.com/pages/childrensday.html> We noticed that our banana plant has fruit. Looks like the fruit has been there longer than a day. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/> And in our ever quest to enjoy the birds without refilling the feeders every hour, I have made this webpage. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/hobbies/birds/> Our potluck on Friday was great. I haven't counted the number of people, but about 60, plus perhaps more. The children never stopped running around the backyard. :-)

May 8, 2011 Lois: Monday I walked all over town so that I could watch the Iosepa go into the water. It is a double hulled teaching sailing canoe. Here are the pictures and movies I took. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/iosepa2may2011/> Here are the Mayday pictures and movies I took: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/maydaylaieelem2011/> We celebrated Boy's Day and invited two other families over. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/boysday/> Sunday, today, we have been in a Flash Flood watch. :-) Hopefully it doesn't get any deeper than these pictures. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/mothersdayrain/>

May 15, 2011 Lois: Monday I walked all over town so that I could watch the Iosepa go into the water. It is a double hulled teaching sailing canoe. Here are the pictures and movies I took. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/iosepa2may2011/> Here are the Mayday pictures and movies I took: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/maydaylaieelem2011/> We celebrated Boy's Day and invited two other families over. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/boysday/> Sunday, today, we have been in a Flash Flood watch. :-) Hopefully it doesn't get any deeper than these pictures. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/mothersdayrain/>

May 22, 2011 Lois: I saw a new creature this week that I had never seen before. It was a Jackson's Chameleon. I was surprised how big it was. Much larger than the anoles. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/hobbies/chameleon/> I finally decided to watch Kahuku Elementary's May. The preschool was HUGE and really impressive! All the grades were well done and the costuming was great! <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/kahukuelemmayday13may2011/> I put the two Fiji movies on Youtube. :-) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vgpgg_H_qCPI http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xm5Q_8UF89s The first one has the boys dancing. The chant was by Br. Damuni, who has passed on. He was our Home Teacher for a few months. The second one has the girls. I thought Jean and Larry might enjoy these two movies, so I uploaded them to youtube. For those of you interested in the bananas. Here is what they have looked like for the past few weeks. How will we tell when they are ready? :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/> Today Jim and Cindy officially moved into our ward, and Cindy already has a Visiting Teaching route, and met her companion. We are a prompt group. LOL Today Jim, Cindy, and Pops joined us for our traditional Sunday Spaghetti.

May 21, 2011 Lois: I am having a hard time remembering what I did this week, but it seems that I worked a lot with pictures and movies. :-) So if you go to "Life in Laie" then I think you will see some of my week. I did take pictures for the BYUH Women's org. and Cindy and I made the yearly pilgrimage over to give leis after the Kahuku High School graduation. It was Cindy's first time. :-) We learned how to make leaf leis that hang down. Usually they're out of maile leaves but we used mock or-

ange. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/laie.html> I've been continuing trying to get the yard looking better. Don't know if it's working, but I keep trying. :-) Don and I walked along the new trail between Laie and Kahuku. It was BLAZING HOT out when we did it, so we only walked as far as Gunstock Ranch and turned around and came back. I was about into heat stroke by the time I got back even though I wore a hat and put on sunblock. Don took a nap afterwards. :-)

May 28, 2011 Lois: I can't believe in two days my youngest will turn 20 and I will have no more teenagers in the house. :-) This week I shot pictures for Don's Phi Kappa Phi induction ceremony and it took 2.5 hours to crop, upload, and make a web page with the pictures I'd taken. I was very tired when I finished that project. Cindy and I went to town where I spent Don's income on fabric. I am eager to start sewing again, but I have to create some patterns first and it would sure help to have the hardware to test out the patterns on. Unfortunately I have given away all my baby hardware. :-) Cindy, Pops, and I went to a Shaka Steel Concert. Here is the link for that page. It has several movies on it. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/shakasteel26may2011/> Last night Jim, Cindy, Pops, Don, and I went and saw "Alice in Wonderland" play at BYU-Hawaii. It was wonderfully done. Alice was great, and it just made me think that it's almost like a one person play, as she rarely left the stage. So many lines. The lady next to me commented that it was the weirdest play she had ever seen, and of course, that was true. :-) But what would you expect watching "Alice in Wonderland?" :-)

Jun 5, 2011 Lois: I finally started sewing again. Ever since something happened to my arm in December, and my living room was decorated for Christmas, I haven't felt like sewing. It felt good to get back. I have so much to do now though. :-) Meanwhile the plants keep growing and life keeps moving forward. I need a maid and gardener. :-) Oh, well. We had a bbq on Monday, and that was hard since I'm trying to lose weight. :-) Too much good food around. I managed to only eat 1/2 of a Costco hot dog, which I thought was a miracle. I do say I was impressed with myself. Cindy and I went and wandered around the Laie Cemetery later in the afternoon. There have been a lot of improvements in the "headstones" since last year. Not sure what to call the decorations since

they cover the whole plot. I should take some pictures sometimes so those of you who haven't been here will have a clue what I'm talking about. We had days of partying associated with Isaac birthday. That was fun. Then we had a Town Meeting. For those of you with Facebook accounts you can go here <http://www.facebook.com/envisionlaie> At the top are five pictures. Click on one of them and you can look at Don and Lois since we were right behind the mike. We look like we're listening, thinking, and bored. :-) The meeting ran over FOUR HOURS, so that's why you get a lot of blank looks. :-) So it was a great week.

Jun 12, 2011 Lois: The unhighlight of my week was making 4 batches of mint chip/chocolate chip/pecan cookies that were very large and sold by the BYUH's Women's Organization at BYUH's education "week." It was only two days long-can you call that a "week?" The cookies sold for \$1.00 each. One man bought one and then came back and bought four more. :-) So that brought in about 28th days profits. They sold out both days of selling. The money goes to student book awards. The reason it was an unhighlight was because I couldn't/wouldn't eat any of the cookies. I did succumb to temptation and clean off about a teaspoon of raw cookie dough. :-) I justified it by the fact that both of my "test-tasters" were asleep and I couldn't send the cookies to the bake sale without making sure they were fit for human consumption. Other than sneaking cookie dough, I've been walking and doing yardwork, and reading The Help. I've also been sewing and going with Cindy on her jaunts.

Jun 17, 2011 Lois: Today is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all you present or future fathers! Today is also Ben's birthday, so I've been thinking about the day he was born. I'm so glad that he was born soon after midnight and didn't wait until after 8am like the doctor wanted. :-) Tomorrow is our Anniversary. Happy Anniversary to my sweet husband of 36 years! My how time flies. :-) I did a bit of sewing this week. I am really proud of what I accomplished. I'm wondering why I just don't design things more often. I love to change patterns, etc. Today the lesson in Relief Society was on our talents. I guess I'm only stopping myself from blossoming even more. Something to think about. I also read the book "Heaven is for Real." I haven't decided if there's any scam going on with the book, but I really enjoyed the book. I would encourage others to read

it also. It takes about one day to read. :-)

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Jun 26, 2011 Lois: I can't believe it's the "Fourth of July" weekend next weekend. What happened to summers where you could "relax?" I'm really excited for Danny and LeeAnn to have a new baby in their family. I've been sewing, helping others, and generally trying to motivate myself to sew. :-) Meanwhile the weeds are growing! Everything is growing, moving, getting dirty, etc much faster than I'm moving. Cindy talked about the man who was visiting our ward that passed away on Monday. Don and I had talked to him and his wife as we left church. They were from Alberta, Canada, and our temples are similar. So we were talking about temples. :-) It was a shock to find out the next day he had died. Today we had a lot of visitors in our ward, and several of them were from Alberta Canada. I guess several of them flew out here with the daughter who came out to help the mom. Saturday I went over and helped two ladies that were moving into the townhouses. They have babies that were born 13 days apart and are less than 3 months old. It was like watching twins. I sat on one of their porches and tended the babies while moving men went in and out of their houses for five hours. :-) It was a long and fulfilling time. Don and I had already worked on cleaning the ward building at 7am, and after the baby job I helped Don for a bit who was putting up a fence around my avocado tree I started from seed. I've started several before and they've always been killed or something by lawnmowers, basketballs, etc, so I am de-

termined this time that it should live. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/yardproduce/>

Jul 2, 2011 Lois: For those interested in my yard, I made a web page on our first crop of breadfruit this season. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/yardproduce/aaronbreadfruit/> For FHE we played a large version of Catan. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/hobbies/catan/> We had a potluck on Friday, July 1st. Here's one of the dishes I made for it. :-) Barbecue. YEAH. Local style. <http://loiscolton.com/recipes/barbqbreadfruit/> Here's the Fourth of July weekend festivities. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/4thofjulyweekend/>

Jul 10, 2011 Lois: Jim, Cindy, and Pops came over for the 4th, and we grilled. I love the mushrooms that Cindy makes, and I had fun making up hamburgers and Cindy grilled them. It's nice to let someone do the grilling. :-) Cindy celebrated her birthday this week, and of course, that included going out to lunch. :-) So between the 4th of July, birthdays, and medical trips with shopping afterwards, I had a lot of fun eating. :-) It is challenging to lose weight while doing that, but I am persevering. I watched several episodes of Extreme Makeover, Weigh Loss. Those people sure are obese. It's amazing what they can accomplish in a year though. I have been getting lots of walks in as I do my errands by foot. You should try it. :-)

Jul 17, 2011 Lois: I am continuing to work on my yard, and body. That pretty much takes a lot of energy. :-) I also go to medical appointments with Cindy and shopping afterwards. In a few days I will have two socials at my house. A lot of people have thanked me for having the socials. That's always nice. They are fun and summer time is a good time for partying. :-) We have people leaving the island and moving to the island, so we can say Aloha and Aloha. :-) I managed to break a 18 foot papaya tree yesterday. Snapped the top right off. Now the top is hanging from our deck. Pretty cool looking. LOL Do you think the papayas will ripen like tomatoes do in the Fall? I'm pretty sure I killed the tree, though. Another one of ours is leaning over. Don't know why they're doing this. Maybe too much water from rain? I don't feel like it's rained that much.

Jul 24, 2011 Lois: We harvested our bananas. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/> I had book club at my house this week. We

had a potluck here also. It is a bit more challenging to lose weight while partying, but that's going to be my life forever anyway. So I might as well learn to avoid eating to gain. :-) I did alter two of my dresses this week so they don't fall off or bag a great deal on me. That was kind of fun.

Jul 31, 2011 Lois: Here's a newsflash! <http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/126474953.html> It will be interesting to see what house he was at this time, and who it is. I spent a lot of time walking, helping a friend move, doing yardwork, etc and it was good for my body, but I didn't lose any weight this week. That is disappointing. Oh, well, at least I didn't gain any either. :-) I was hoping to average two pounds a week. I have been enjoying strawberries and blueberries, though. :-)

Aug 7, 2011 Lois: We had a Relief Society Progressive Pupus Dinner. <http://loiscolton.com/laie6/rsprogressive3aug2011/> Banana followup: I was expecting our bananas to ripen gradually. Silly me. They all turned on the same day. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/> They are really, really good bananas, though. We left them on the tree too long so some of the split the length of the peel. Maybe they taste better that way? LOL Anyway, it was our first attempt, and I'd say we were very successful. I would like to know what kind of bananas they are. They are not apple bananas. They are more like Chiquitas. And here are pictures from the last potluck. I hadn't even realized I hadn't made up a page yet. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/potluck21july2011/>

Aug 30, 2011 Lois: I am having a great time! Here are some pictures of my trip so far. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/trips/aug.html> I have many more pictures, but it's little hard to post while on vacation. :-)

Sep 4, 2011 Lois: I have having a great time in Eugene. It is tempting to eat too much good food, but other than that, I'm fine. :-) I will have pictures when I get home, but right now they are just stacking up in my camera. :-)

Sep 11, 2011 Lois: I wanted to report on my month of being on vacation and eating new, foreign, and forbidden foods.... :-)

I tried hard to lose weight while I was gone and had some slow success, or stayed the same depending on

the week. It was really hard to tell what I weighed though as I was in three different states and that meant multiple scales.

So I weighed myself this morning on my own scale. I'm happy to report that my weight has gone down, and I am FINALLY under 200 pounds!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I feel like I've accomplished a great accomplishment. Back in April when I started I was 238. YEAH. I hope you are having success. ALL effort is worth it. Even if you don't lose weight, I think you're probably eating better.

I was told NUMEROUS times that I didn't look old enough to be a grandma or Joseph's mom or some other thing. Maybe there's a relationship to diet? :-) Like Daniel of old being fair of face?

Anyway, I just wanted to share a success with you. I'm looking forward to watching "The Biggest Loser" again! Love, Lois

17 Sep 2011 Lois: Here are the pictures to the potluck. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/potluck16sep2011/> It's not too meaningful to most of you since you don't know the people, but it was a lot of fun. Then today I had a baby shower at my home. Here are some pictures from that, also. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/friends/minzhishower17sep2011/> I was EXTREMELY pleased with the nursing coverup that I made. I wanted something Oriental/Chinese looking. Here are close ups of that. <http://loiscolton.com/sewing/minzhi/> The BIG news this past week is that I started taking an Art Class. It is fun and terrifying. I think I only have about 26 more times to be terrified. :-) I'm auditing the class and that helps, but it's still stressful to me. I do want to learn the material, though, and that is why I even signed up. My goal is to eventually take a painting class and this class is a prerequisite.

25 Sep 2011 Lois: I enjoyed the Relief Society broadcast on Saturday morning. It was good to get rejuvenated. I have been taking an art class this semester. It is partially stressful to me, but I actually liked the project that I made in class on Thursday. When I get it back, I will probably take a picture of it and share it with you. We had to pick a theme for all our work this semester, so I picked flowers. I figure there's a lot of variety that I can do with that theme. I made six nursing coverups this week. You can see them here: <http://loiscolton.com/>

[sewing/grandmadaycare/](#) I have been having fun letting my thoughts go wild in new designs. Now I just have to get the fabric to go with my thoughts. :-) I did make one that I really liked, though. It's the one with the 3D seaweed on it. :-)

Oct 2, 2011 Lois: I felt good about my art class at the end of art class on Thursday. I survived. We had a project due and the class talked about each one. Since they liked mine, it was a good experience. :-) They gave me some great ways to improve it. Saturday I listened to three sessions of LDS Conference. I especially liked the Priesthood session. It had some amazing talks, and went by really quickly. I will enjoy watching them again. I had a good time mowing the lawn this week with our new lawnmower and grass catcher. It's been quite a while that our lawnmower had a grass catcher and it makes the lawn look so much prettier. It's a pleasure to mow. I also took down my summer flowers in the living room and put up my fall leaves. It is so beautiful with the little lights on the window scarves and leaves. I love sitting in the room at night.

Oct 9, 2011 Lois: I've been working on my art class and decided to post some of the pictures. It will have pictures added as the prof gives them back. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/hobbies/art/> I had fun doing the one last Thursday. We had to exaggerate something, making the proportion off in some way. We had five cartoons to pick from. I just waited until the rest of the class picked since I am auditing, and don't really care which one I get anyway. I got Bart Simpson. I've been sewing a lot. It is a good balance to the stress of art class. It is relaxing and also uses the creative juices. :-) I've been working on Don's Halloween costume, and more nursing coverups. I just love doing nursing coverups. It's like little creative art projects that don't really matter how they turn out. LOL I've also kept on reading in my quilting book series that I was given. It is fun. The one I'm in is called, "An Elm Creek Quilts Sampler" by Jennifer Chiarenini.

Oct 16, 2011 Lois: I had a great week. I worked on Don and my Halloween costume, and I'll show you more next week what it looks like. We had an opportunity to inherit three mural panels that were each 6 feet by 6 feet. We brought them home and today we installed them on the lanai. I've started painting parts of it over, and for now will leave most of it alone. I think. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/hobbies/routerrestaurant/>

At the beginning of the month I changed the decor around here to the "Fall" one. Here are some pictures. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/fall/>

Oct 23, 2011 Lois: Sold our black van for \$1.00 so now I have a paper to mail in and we have more room in the driveway. I finished our Halloween costumes, and now we're thinking of offering group shots of Halloween Trick r Treaters or wander-by-ers, and have slips of paper to hand out as to where to find the pictures. We'll probably start small this year in our background since we only have one week to get ready, but next year, who knows. ;-) We are good at thinking up projects. Yep, that's us. I managed to gain two pounds so I must have had a fun week, but I can tell you there was TONS of food I didn't eat. :-)

Oct 30, 2011 Lois: On Monday during FHE, Don and I dressed up in our Halloween costumes and had Isaac give us a photo shoot. For most of it we were out by the street and cars would slow down or stop and watch. It was cracking me up. There was a guy that drove up, stopped his car, and watched, then left, then came back after having picked up his wife someplace and showed her. :-) Don and I made a new web page in preparation for taking pictures of everyone on Halloween. You can see both pages here: <http://loiscolton.com/halloween/> I read the book Enchanted, Inc in preparation for book club. It was a fun read. It is a series, and I think I'll try and get a copy of the next part. I started another series that I had previously bought, and so far it is just kind of weird. I keep wondering where it's going. It kind of reminds me of Twilight, except there are no vampires, and there is a person from the 1400's in a modern day story. :-) I also discovered a new way to cut branches down from our flame tree out front. It is MUCH safer for me. Previously I was using a small chain saw with an extension pole attached. You can buy them like that at Home Depot. It still weighs a fair amount for me, and the pole isn't long enough to get a safe angle away from the branch that's going to crash down on you. So I used the same pole that I cut breadfruit down with. It in an extension pole (like the kind that you clean swimming pools with) with a sharp curved blade ducted taped onto the end. Since the flame tree has wimpy branches it's like you reached up and pulled the branch down, or cut it if you jerk hard enough.

Nov 6, 2011 Lois: So here are the Halloween Stats for those that want to know. 403 Austin Cheese on Cheese, or Peanut Butter crackers handed out. 20 +/- gallons of ice water. Don took pictures of 368 people. You can see them here: <http://loiscolton.com/halloween/>

We just got back from ONE LONG DAY OF FLYING. :-) North Carolina is a long way from Hawaii. :-) I had a great time touring the town for 2.5 hours one day, and then the next day I went and toured three old homes. You can see pictures I took here. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/isecon/>

Nov 13, 2011 Lois: I was very surprised to find out we have more bananas growing. I looked before we went on a trip, and didn't see any. So I don't know if I missed them, or they grew in the past two weeks. Here they are: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/> In my art class we watched a movie clip about Andy Goldsworthy <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkHRZQU6bjI> and then we went outside and made our own. You can see a sample of our work, which was made only in a class period, and was much warmer than Andy's work. :-) He reminds me of Thoreau on Walden Pond. :-)

Nov 20, 2011 Lois: I have been feeling pretty good about my Christmas prep this year in ordering things online. I just love the simplicity of that, and it's actually cheaper. :-) Let's see.... they ship free and the PO charges \$10-15 for a box. :-) so I can spend money on the contents instead. I like that. I did mail out a few boxes anyway. Tradition! :-) I just have to figure out a few more and I'll be done and it's not even Thanksgiving. I'm all for enjoying December, drinking cocoa, and eating cookies. :-) Yeah, right. I've been really enjoying looking at the banana plant this week as it grows. Every day I look it changes a lot. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/>

Nov 27, 2011 Lois: So much happened this week. President Wheelwright sat in on our art class this week and then later we looked at everyone's flip books that we had made for project #4. We signed up to have solar hot water panels placed on our roof next week. So we moved large storage shelves around the room that has the water heater to make room for the new tanks. We had a great Thanksgiving at Jim and Cindy's house! Then we continued to party the day after at our house! I had signed up to feed the missionaries, and we had Jim and

Cindy over here, and another family. Our local high school won the State Football Championship. Here's a movie clip of part of the celebration. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwM38pPQ2LE&sns=fb> Some towns have "noise ordinances." but that's meaningless when your local boys win the State Championship. :-) One of our friends had their baby born the same day. Yep that boy is from Kahuku also. :-) I undecorated the house on Saturday with all the fall decor, and am slowly starting the Christmas decor. It would be easier to do that if I were awake. I took pictures of the Christmas trees that are over at the Laie Temple Visitor's Center. All the Stakes on the island decorated one, and the BYUH Women's Organization decorated the tall tree this year. Here's pictures of that: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/vcChristmastrees2011/> And our banana tree is moving quickly along. You can see how many days apart I take the pictures (about 3) and how it's progressing. There are two sets of banana plant pictures, so the current one is the second one. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/banana/> Another link to last night: http://youtu.be/HlC8_8RHjGM And a link to the victory drive through Laie on Saturday. :-) The fun continues.... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3jjGdeGS-M>

Dec 4, 2011 Lois: The big news is Solar Hot Water! The sad news is that it's pretty much been overcast since we had it installed. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/house/solarhotwater/> No, that doesn't mean we've had cold showers, but it does mean it's heated with electricity like normal. Afterwards I could decorate the outside of the house. :-) <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/christmasdecor/> and another website that I plan on adding more to: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/christmasfun/>

Dec 11, 2011 Lois: Ben comes tomorrow! Yippy! Thursday I had a Book Club party at my home. Friday we went to a Graduation Dinner. Saturday we went to the PCC and ate for my birthday, and Sunday Cindy made me a birthday cake and we all ate it. It was amazing that I stayed the same weight this week. :-) I definitely wasn't eating to lose weight. I basically finished my art class, and Tuesday I'll take some cookies to class, but not stay for the review. I learned a lot about art, and also the stress that I always seem to have when taking classes. :-) I will work on my own at home for a while. I will watch a lot of youtube videos. :-) Today, I had a

great birthday. I felt loved. Thank you. The town Cindy was trying to remember for our garden club tour is Kahuku. I was impressed at what the teacher was trying to teach the students at the High School. They raise fish to sell. I thought that was kind of novel for a High School. They propagate plants and give them away also. I guess last year they gave away 5000 plants. That's a lot of plants.

Dec 18, 2011 Lois: Ben is here. We've been having fun. On Wednesday we did the PCC Christmas Canoe ride. Here are some pictures of that: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/pccchristmas/> We had an 11-building ground breaking ceremony on Saturday. Most of them are residential buildings, but one if for the new multipurpose School of Business, Computing, and Government and BYUH 3rd Stake. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/byuhgroundbreaking17dec2011/> Don and I(well, mostly Don) fixed the lid switch on the washing machine again. Hey, the electrical tie lasted 1.5 years. It would be nice to be closer to a parts stores, but this is good. We'll see how long it lasts. Cindy had her RS party here at our house after caroling and visiting the Visitor Center trees. Here are some pictures of that and more of the inside and outside of our home. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/rs2nd/> And we've been having more Christmas fun as people want to use our house for their photo shoots. :-)
<http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/christmasfun/>

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Dec 25, 2011 Lois: Ben is here. We've been having fun. On Wednesday we did the PCC Christmas Canoe ride. Here are some pictures of that: <http://loiscolton.com/2011/holidays/pccchristmas/> We had an 11-building ground breaking ceremony on Saturday. Most of them are residential buildings, but one if for the new multipurpose School of Business, Computing, and Government and BYUH 3rd Stake. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/byuhgroundbreaking17dec2011/> Don and I(well, mostly Don) fixed the lid switch on the washing machine again. Hey, the electrical tie lasted 1.5 years. It would be nice to be closer to a parts stores, but this is good. We'll see how long it lasts. Cindy had her RS party here at our house after caroling and visiting the Visitor Center trees. Here are some pictures of that and more of the inside and outside of our home. <http://loiscolton.com/2011/laie/rs2nd/>

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