In a 1947 *Airpost Journal* article Richard Singley wrote of a June 25, 1946 ceremony held at LaGuardia Airport in which Pan American Airways (PAA) was commended for a job well done during the war. Some, up to that time, unknown information was revealed at that ceremony concerning some to the work done. Mr. Singley wrote that the “Veil has been lifted” in anticipation of more information about the war effort. Despite that anticipation, much of that information was not released until PAA went out of business in 1991 and some of its files were cataloged and stored at the University of Miami Richter Library. Since these materials became available a number of great research pieces have been published but there seemed to be some gaps. In the spring of 2012 I found for the first time a considerable amount of information about these wartime operations. This included unpublished books about the operations as well as hidden operations timetables and the very special trip summaries. Enough to fill a 422 page book with just some of it. There are many stories to tell from that experience.

One of the most interesting stories describes the building of the seaplane port for the Boeing 314 flying boats. This base became known as Fisherman’s Lake (aka Lake Piso) in Liberia. Note that PAA uniformly called the ports it built for the flying boats “seaplane” ports. One report by Ray Coloord, found in the PAA Special Collection, was a lengthy report of these efforts. The report thankfully includes details of the amounts of cargo and mail that passed through that port. A number of other reports found in the special collection complement this one. This port became the center of activity in 1942 and 1943. The port was served by PAA-Africa routes to Accra, Gold Coast using the land airport on site known as Benson Field.

By the summer of 1943 the Boeing 314 flying boats had been made almost obsolete by the newer Douglas C-54 and other aircraft so the base became a bit less important for the military but it continued to be used on commercial routes.

The latest record for a Boeing 314 visit to Fisherman’s Lake is a cargo manifest from the flying boat NC18606 flown by renowned Captain Marius G. Lodeesen (Captain Lodi). The manifest was received “Recd.Okay, FSH 4/18/46 RC.” Probably received by Ray Coloord himself. It was about time for him to go home.