

VACATIONS
CHAPTER THREE

9/26/2011

1991- GERMANY AND FRANCE – Isabel and Bill –

October 3-14, 1991

October 3 - Philadelphia – 5:10 pm, Lufthansa – Montreal – Frankfurt 7:20 am

October 14 - Frankfurt – 10:15 am Lufthansa - Montreal - Phila. 3:20 pm

Europcar rental – exchange rate for DMarks – 1.63 for \$1.00.

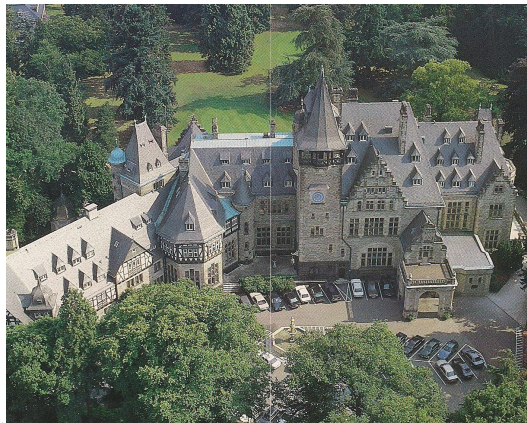
Friday, October 4, 1991

Upon arrival at Frankfurt Airport, we first drove to the Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station) for tourist information, snack at Mc Donalds, found a small German Hotel Goldener Schlüssel (Golden Key) on Escherheimer Strasse not far from the center of Frankfurt, and near Roundup Chapel. (1.20 E for a room).



Bill & Isabel at Roundup Chapel where we held YFC Rallies in 1946

Drove to Bad Homberg, then Kronberg Castle, formerly a plush military retreat center when we were in the Army in 1946, and where brother Chuck sang at a military wedding. Decided not to stay there – 360 DM per day



Kronberg Castle



Another view of Kronberg Castle in 1946

Attended Radio Symphonic Orchestra concert at the Alte Oper Haus in Frankfurt, recently rebuilt after its severe damage in the bombings of 1944. Wonderful program – Beethoven’s 6th Symphony, and Liszt.

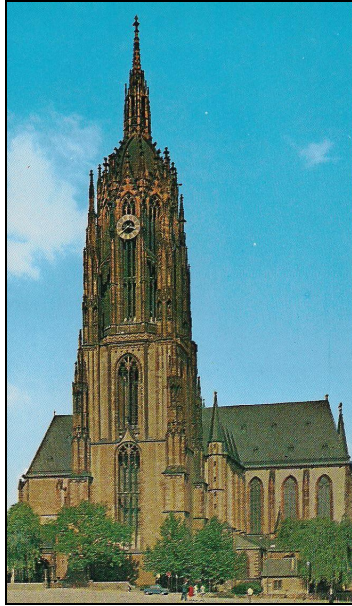
Saturday, October 5, 1991



Moved to Hotel Mondial in center city Frankfurt, went to Zeil, the central market street closed to autos, then to Goethe’s house, to Abel Barracks where we were first housed in 1946, then to a restaurant in the small nearby town of Bad Vibel. Then back to the Mondial for the night.

Sunday, October 6, 1991

We wanted to attend the worship service at the Dom, the magnificent cathedral in Frankfurt, but could not find parking, so drove on to Hoechst, where I had been stationed as the Chaplain’s Assistant. Just missed the service at the Lutheran Church where I had preached on one occasion in 1946 while just an Army corporal, met Pastor Christian Muller.



Frankfurt Dom Cathedral



Pastor Muller

They had served communion at which each worshipper was given a single grape (distributed in small baskets) instead of a glass of wine or grape juice.

Arrived in Wiesbaden and stayed at Hotel Furstenhof Esplanade, a block from the StadtTheater where we attended “Die Fleidermaus” by Johann Strauss. We met the same woman usher who spoke so kindly to Barbara last year when we were there.

Monday, October 7, 1991

Walked the beautiful shopping streets of Wiesbaden, the Kurhaus (conference center), and marveled at the beautiful architecture, murals, frescoes, statuary on walls, ceilings and in the gardens. Then on to the Berg Hotel in Budenheim and supper in Mainz



The Berg Hotel

Tuesday, October 8, 1991

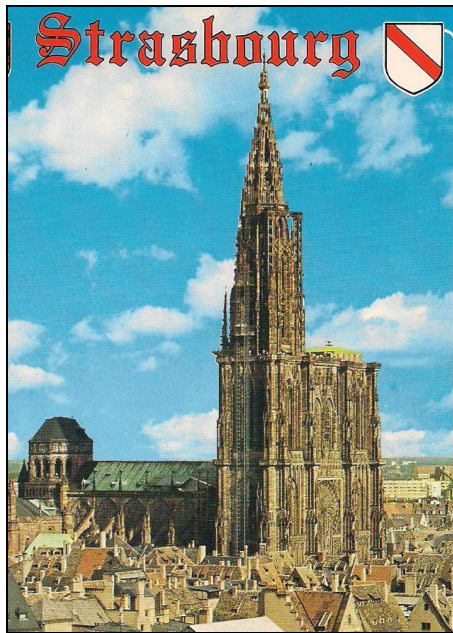
On to Schierstein to find the river boat “Mainz,” but now in Bremen for repairs as a dry-dock ship museum to be berthed in Mannheim. Driving on to Strasbourg, France. Stopped in Pirmasens to find relatives of Barbara Easterday. Met Hans Kupper in Eppenbraun, owner of a small resort hotel and restaurant.

Passing over into France, we were surprised that there wasn’t even a customs check point, and seemed as easy as crossing from one state in the USA to another, even though these were two countries. We had difficulty finding a place to stay, and did not

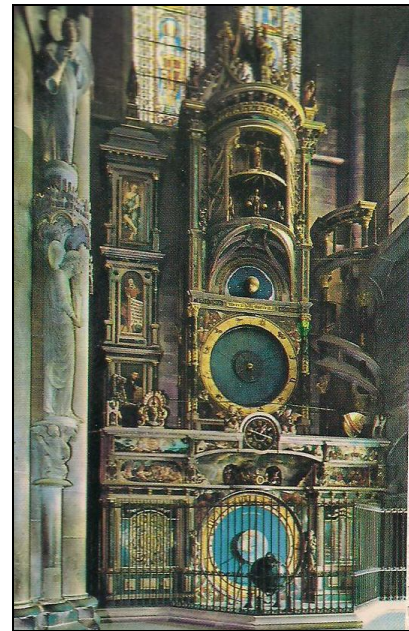
know the language. Finally, we ended up at the Hilton paying 950 FF, but reduced to us for 850 = \$130. still a lot of money at the time when we were paying so little at the places we stayed at in Germany.

Wednesday, October 9, 1991

Going to the great Strasbourg Cathedral we saw and saw the famous Astronomical clock so tall and with the movement of the disciples, the Lord, and the crowing of the cock at Peter's denial.



Astronomical Clock



We then climbed the 330 steps to the top, (no elevator) and viewed the beautiful city. Then on to Offenburg, Germany, without any customs check-point at the border crossing, and stayed for the night at Bad Peterstal-Griesback in a hotel where it seemed as though we were the only guests. We love these so-called hotels, but are more like tourist houses and small family restaurants.

Thursday, October 10, 1991

Driving on, we stopped at a small gift shop and purchased a cuckoo clock in the Black Forest, passed through Tubigen, the University town, and ended up in Heidenheim at the hotel Schweizer Hof.

Friday, October 11, 1991

In Dinkelsbuhl, one of the ancient walled cities on the famous Romantic Road, we visited the 3-D photographic museum and spoke by phone with the famous German photographer and owner Gerry Stief.

Then passing through another walled city, Nordlingen, we arrived at Rothenburg ob der Tauber River. We would visit this city many times in the next two decades, sometimes with various members of our family - children and grandchildren.



City Hall and Plaza - Rothenburg



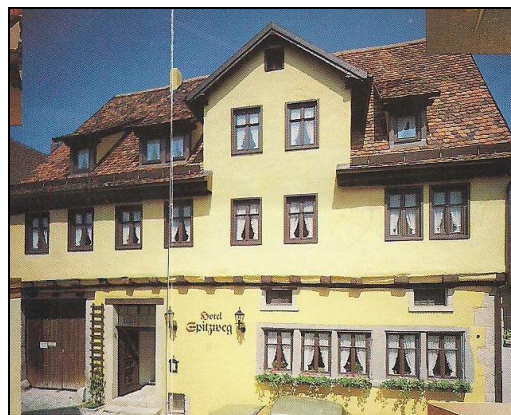
Animated Drinkers and Clock

Here is the marvelous St Jakobs Cathedral, a Lutheran Church with its magnificent organ and friendly organist, Ulrich Knorr, We became friends.



St Jakobs –Rothenburg

Here too, the attraction is the old city surrounded by a stone wall that was partially destroyed during WWII but restored now as before. Staying at Hotel Spitzweg.



Spitzweg Hotel - Rothenburg

We then had supper in a café on the town plaza and drank some of the fresh pressed cider from a vendor on the square.

Saturday, October 12, 1991



Fresh-pressed Apple Juice in Rothenburg Plaza – see apples in basket

After walking the streets of the old city in Rothenburg again, we drove through Würzburg and arrived back in Frankfurt at the Goldener Schlüssel where we had made reservations on our first night.

Sunday, October 13, 1991

Drove to Heidelberg and found that most everything closes on Sundays in Germany. The Art Museum was open however, and we saw some very old 13th to the 17th Century art and artifacts. We took the train up to the Heidelberg Castle, famous in the US because it was the site of Sigmund Romberg musical “The Student Prince.”



Bill & Isabel on Bridge with Heidelberg Castle in Background

Monday, October 14, 1991

Leaving the Goldener Schlüssel early, we drove to the Frankfurt Airport for our 10:15 am departure to Philadelphia via Montreal via Lufthansa. The movie screen in the plane shows the route of the flight on a map. We flew over Germany, Amsterdam, Scotland, near Iceland, Greenland, and Canada. Other information shows – altitude- 31,000 to 33,000 feet, outside temperature -59 degrees to -70, ground speed 475 – 515 mph. The screen shows a tiny airplane moving along as the plane moves, giving our present location and various cities along the way.

An unexpected meeting of two of our distant cousins – Peggy and Russell Doughty of Linwood, NJ – occurred as we were traveling in the air. Though we did not recognize each other, our conversations led to the discovery of our relationship. They were members of my granddad’s church- The Linwood Community Church.

A very wonderful trip. See my diary for more details including accommodations, costs, etc.

Places visited on this trip –

- Frankfurt
- Weisbaden
- Budenheim
- Strasbourg, Fr
- Bad Peterstal
- Heidenheim
- Rothenburg

END OF CHAPTER THREE