

Bob and Listy vacation in Europe – Margaret and Bud in Budapest

Once the big wedding celebration was over Bob and Listy decided to take a much needed vacation, and chose Italy as a starting point. They were accompanied by good friends Kym and Doug Farkas. After some time in Italy they traveled to England. The high point of that visit was a tour of Gillingham, England. Yes, there is indeed a town named Gillingham in England, and as you can see in the below pictures, they had a great time there. Listy supplied us with some pictures, with associated captions, revealing some of their more interesting visits.



We spent a day in Florence and enjoyed the many shops and hiking around that city as well. We also made our way to London where we visited all the usual places, ran around Hyde Park, shopped, and attended a few plays



But a trip highlight for us was to visit the town of Gillingham where we found and took many pictures:

- Gillingham CO OP
- Gillingham Train Station
- Gillingham Golf Club
- Gillingham Library
- Gillingham Methodist Church (sorry Mom)
- Gillingham Lodge
- Gillingham Football Club (soccer)
- You get the idea....
- It was quite fun to hike around although had we stayed longer Bob might have wanted to be crowned King.



We spent four days in Rome checking old stuff We met Jessica at Vatican City We got in some running at Cinque Terra
 Cinque Terra (five lands) consists of five little towns that are seven miles apart and connected by trails you can hike on. We decided it would be fun to run early in the morning and return to the towns we enjoyed the most on the way back

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Margaret and Bud Explore Budapest and Spain – Robert fishes Alaska

Bud's invitation to speak at the major European Education Conference (EARLI) in Budapest was a great opportunity for the Margaret and Bud to spend some time way from lovely Encinitas. (And it seems that they managed to miss the heat wave.)



Bud Giving his EARLI Talk in Budapest

The plan was to visit a friend in Spain, and then to travel to Budapest and return to Madrid and then home. They arrived in Valencia and were met by their friend Jim Skelly at the airport. (but without luggage for Margaret.) Margaret wasn't too worried as she was confident it would be delivered later that day or the next. And since they were staying not far from the airport for 2 and half days she expected to have clothes soon. Still, a stop was needed for some essentials. That started the saga of the missing suitcase. Iberia Airlines said they located it the next day each day, but attempts to get it to us failed. Some variant of that same story was relayed for the next 8 days. Margaret started shopping for clothes the way Europeans shop for food—just what is needed for the day. Each day brought renewed faith that the suitcase would arrive, and ended with a message that they had no idea where it was. This message set off fear that that was lost After 8 days, Iberia finally managed to deliver the suitcase in Budapest—just in time to return to Spain. To add insult to injury, Margaret had to pay the delivery charge.

So a good deal of the trip was spent in shopping for clothes. And Margaret experienced "guilt free" shopping. There was no question about needing the items. So they just needed to be bought, new pants, dress for a formal reception at the conference, exercise clothes, tops, shoes—everything. So Bud spent more time in stores than the innocent bystanders would have endorsed (but let's assume he has special dispensation.).

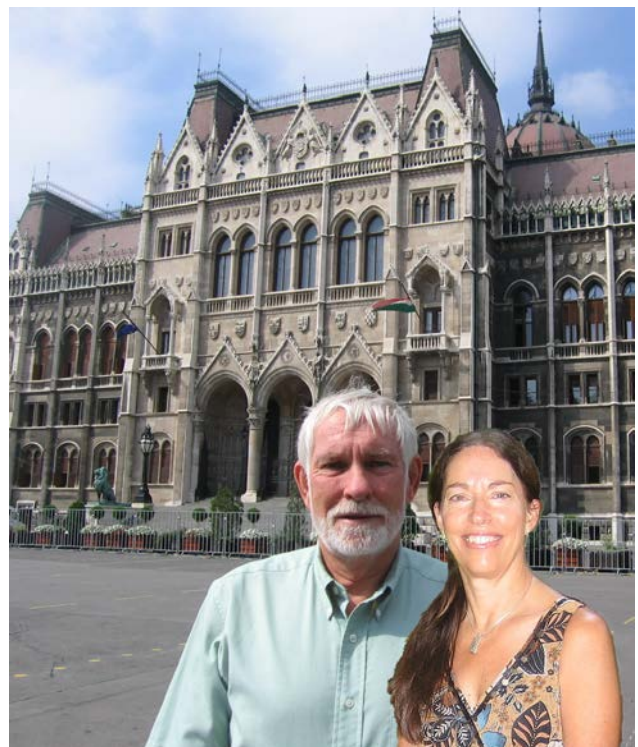
The silver lining is that the European Union puts pressure on airlines to unite travelers with their luggage by placing a 50 euros a day allotment for each day without luggage. So there is some hope that not only was the shopping spree guilt-free, it might be cost free. Margaret spent the last day of the trip with a choice of many clean outfits while Bud was rifling through his suitcase to find something unwrinkled and in wearable condition.

When Margaret and Bud were not making phone calls to Iberia and not shopping for clothes, they managed to see a good deal of the beauty of Budapest. The pictures, unfortunately, are few, as the camera was in the suitcase. So, Bud's pictures are with a cell phone.

They did manage to get to some of the remarkable sites of Budapest. The city is made up of two parts, Buda and Pest.



Buda is the hilly side (on the left) with the castle and other wonderful buildings and monuments built on the hills above the Danube. Pest is on the other side of the Danube River and was in early times the more industrial area with major commerce and trade. On the banks of the river on both sides are really remarkable buildings. In the image you can see the Margaret Island in the middle where they have a zoo and parks. Below is the back side of the Parliament which was only one of many beautiful buildings



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Who Wants Fish?

Dad, as I told you, I was invited to go fishing in Alaska this year with my company and a few selected customers. So last month I packed up, said goodbye to Karla and the kids and went on the "Business trip" of a lifetime, five days at a fishing lodge in Sitka, Alaska. Now, when most of us envision a fishing lodge, we think of log cabins with out-houses and camp fires. But when I got there I was pleasantly surprised to find a modern condo with a 50" HD TV, cable TV, hot tubs, and a balcony with a great view.



A typical day meant getting up at 4:30 am to be at breakfast by 5:00. After a nice hot meal, we (there were 12 in our party and about 50 people overall at the lodge) all got into vans to be transported to the boats so we could leave by 6:00. Then fishing (4 persons for each 30' boat) until about 4:00pm then back to the lodge to clean up for dinner at 6:00. After that we would R&R in the hot tub or in the living room telling lies about the fish we caught that day. Finally it's off to bed until the next day, where we'd do it all over again. I caught a lot of fish including a 90 pound halibut, lots of king and silver salmon, and a multitude of other large fish. On our last day one of the guys I



was fishing with, caught a #335 halibut. It was over 7' long and took three guys to finally get it in the boat. The really great thing about fishing this way is that you don't have to do anything like clean the fish or wash the boat down. Everything is done for you. The fish caught during the day are brought back



by to the lodge where the staff cleans, fillets, packages and freezes them. Then on the last day they pack it all in shipping cartons to take home. I brought home over #100 of salmon, halibut, yellow eye and rock fish fillets. Needless to say we have plenty fish for those family members that want some.

Thanks, Robert, for this great fish story. I am sure you will get many takers on the offer to share your fishing prowess!!

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Ophelia Merica 1920 - 2007



It is with much sorrow we must announce the passing of Ophelia Merica, Grandma's sister-in-law. When they were both teenagers they were very close friends, both living in Tehran. Ophelia was the wife of the 4th son of Theodore Merica, Byron. The above picture was taken in about 1945. After Grandma left Iran (in 1946) Ophelia and Byron remained in Tehran, where Byron and Romulus worked in their father's import-export business. Romulus retired from the business in about 1970, and he and his wife Isabel moved back to Athens. Byron and Ophelia remained in Tehran until after the 1979 revolution. At that time they were virtual prisoners in their own home. Although they lost all of their assets they were able to escape Iran. Byron settled in Paris, and Ophelia in Nice, where she lived until she died from a stroke. She is survived by her three children, Lily Marie-Blairon, who lives in Brussels, Ellie Fortune, who lives in Divonne Les Bains, France, and Hemon Merica, who also lives in the same city.

Although Grandma had not seen Ophelia since we visited Europe in 1979, she was much saddened by the loss of her lifetime friend. We will be making a donation the American Heart Association in her name.

Curtis visits San Diego

As we mentioned in the last RFNL, Curtis was back from Korea for a brief training session, and was able to attend the Kristy/Seamus wedding. We got together for lunch and a golf game, along with Grandma and Bruce. At the S.D. Brewery lunch he showed us his entire collection of coin awards for excellence in his line-of-duty performance. He loaned them to us for we could photograph them, and we hereby print the result.



It's the racing season at Del Mar

Grandma and Grandpa made it the Del Mar for two separate visits, as mentioned in the August RFNL. In addition to going with Margaret and her friends, we also enjoyed the company of Carol, Jeff, his mother Audrey. A third visit was just us. Altogether we had enjoyable times, especially with family and friends. There were no big winners, but there was lots of excitement. We only took one set of pictures, but every visit was full of fun.



Hartman kitchen featured in Sunday newspaper ad

Recently Birdy called to let us know that an advertisement in the Sunday

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MEMBER SAN DIEGO NARI SPECTER

TV program section included a picture of their kitchen. Birdy says "We are now famous!" So, here it is.

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It is official! Craig and Ana are engaged. They are getting married May 31, 2008

Just wanted to share the joy!

Love,

Birdy

This e-mail came in a few months ago, followed shortly thereafter by an announcement of a celebration party to be held at the Francie/Lyle home on July 28, 2007. As usual, there were lots of snacks, drinks and good food. Afterwards, the happy couple posed for picture taking, plus lots of advice from several of the guests. Since the date was only a few days prior to the Kristy/Seamus wedding, Seamus had some words of wisdom for Craig and Ana. Everyone had a great time, and we all look forward to the wedding next May. We certainly thank Francie and Lyle, and all of the others who made the party such a great success.



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Investment home built by Rich and Ed nears completion – goes on slow market



For some time now Ed and Rich have been building a single family home in Spring Valley, just east of San Diego. It now is nearly complete, and Grandma and Grandpa took a tour, guided by Ed. It is located at 3217 Fairway Drive, and is listed at \$735,000. It has 4 bed rooms, 3 bath rooms, and a large 2 car garage. The lot is 17,424 sq ft. It is a nice plan, and in spite of the slow market situation they hope to find a buyer soon.



Some family news

In the last RFNL we printed the song sung at the Seamus/Kristy wedding, but did not know the tune used for the original lyrics. **Francie** came up with an immediate e-mail answer – “It’s still rock and roll to me, by Billy Joel.” It’s so great to have so much knowledgeable support when we are uninformed on these important details! Speaking of Francie, we had a phone call from her a few weeks ago. She was looking for a ride home from Fashion Valley. She had had surgery on her hand, and since it was a hot day she decided to take in a movie, as a recovery room. She seemed fine, and we were glad to get her safely home. We saw her recently, and the hand has healed up nicely. **Annie Gillingham** is settled in in Spain, where she will be spending a semester working on her college major, Spanish. We hope

to hear from her soon, for more details. **Michelle Hartman** joined us for lunch recently. Her graduate work is going well, and she recently successfully completed a scheduled oral examination. We are looking forward to hearing from **Brett** on the Temecula film festival where his latest film was entered. **Kristy** has started her teaching career, teaching English at Francis Parker Middle School. **Kevin** has moved to Claremont College, where he is starting graduate work. We were visiting Francis Parker Lower School recently, and ran into **David Gillingham**. He is in charge of the after school program, and enjoys his work very much.

History of waste disposal on San Diego

We have room for another chapter in Curtis’ report for the City of San Diego.

Despite the fact that Jorres received his high priced contract, he still sought to cut corners by dumping his load at night off of Ballast point. After some citizens reported this activity, the City imposed new heavy fines on Jorres if he was caught dumping too close to shore. At this point most people were beginning to become disenchanted with the whole concept of a garbage scow.

Because of the controversy surrounding the garbage scows, the City began to look for other solutions for its waste problem. Many citizens favored an incinerator, which many believed to be the most efficient and the most sanitary of the available means of disposal. City officials visited Los Angeles and examined the facility there. Pleased by what they saw, the City decided incineration was the best possible solution to its waste problem. Planning began for an incinerator to be built and operated by the City at the foot of 8th street, a dump that figured prominently in the future of waste in the City. The incinerator was completed on November 15, 1897 and the City auctioned off the *Utilissimo*.

Second Attempt at Privatization

For the next nine years waste disposal was almost completely deregulated within the City. Private companies or individuals collected much of the waste for a small fee, and then took it to either the incinerator or one of the many unregulated small dumps at the time operated by private individuals. The lack of any official oversight led many of these haulers to illegally dump their waste in public lots and canyons. In an effort to keep public lots of land clean and provide for uniform pickup of waste the City adopted ordinance number 3180 on February 19, 1908.

This ordinance, entitled, “An Ordinance to Protect the Health, Comfort, and Security of the Inhabitants of the City of San Diego, California, by Providing for the Disposal, in Sanitary Manner, of Garbage, Refuse, Rubbish, and other Waste Matter in the said City of San Diego,” empowered the Department of Public Works to accept bids for a contract to haul all of the waste in the City. (to be continued)