

## 1964 FRANCE AND ENGLAND

April 9, 1964. We left Cincinnati at 6:30 pm on American Airlines for New York. Air France was about four hours late so we didn't leave New York until 1:30 am! It was already 7:30 am in Paris

April 10, 1964. We arrived in Paris about 2:00 PM and checked into Le Rond Point Hotel and slept for two hours.

We then took the Metro to the Louvre for a night visit of the Egyptian Galleries. After that we returned to le Rue Ponthieu and had dinner at L'Auberge Chamonix. I give three black forks to their kidneys!

Saturday, April 11. We walked to le Place de Opera and visited AAA to arrange a car for Monday. Then we took a bus to Le Pont Neuilly and connected with another bus to Malmaison where Empress Josephine died. What a charming chateaux.

We took the bus and Metro back and went to Maxims for dinner. We are too early but we enjoyed the fois gras cooked in a flaky crust. Sole was the specialty, which we followed with a soufflé

Sunday, April 12. We went to the Bois de Boulogne where we walked and walked. We saw the Jardin d'Acclimation and a horse show. Then it was home to Le Rond Point to phone Peggy on her birthday.

After that we went to the flea market, and walked through an enormous conglomeration of booths.

Then we went back to the hotel for a short rest before going to the Follies Bergere. The sets and costumes were magnificent, but the show was not as good as the one we saw three years ago. Of course Ev did not get asked to dance this time.

Afterwards we had dinner at the Barcelona; a Spanish restaurant in nearby Montmarte. We had the restaurant almost to ourselves and enjoyed the flamenco dancing and guitarist. Afterward, we hurried through the rain to catch the last Metro back to the hotel.

Monday, April 13. We picked up our Renault Dauphin and left Paris about 10:30 am. We headed south and could see the Cathedral from far away. Chartres Cathedral is magnificent with beautiful stained glass. We had lunch and there was a wedding party in the restaurant.

We then went on to Chateaudin, an interesting castle. Next we went to Vendome with its interesting gothic church near the ruined chateau.

We spent the night at Blois at the Hotel de Chateau, almost at the foot of the chateau. We walked all over the town before dinner and bed.

Tuesday, April 14. Blois Chateau is enormous and interesting for the different styles of architecture. We saw the place where the Duc de Guise was murdered.

Then it was on to Taloy, a complete contrast, for it had not been a royal dwelling. It was of feudal style, built at the same time as the Francois 1 wing at Blois.

Next we went to Chambord, which looks like a chateau should look. The largest park in France surrounds it. There was an interesting double spiral staircase that went up through the keep. Actually the chateau is mostly an enormous keep, the wings being mostly corridors.

On we went to Cheverny, and found it is completely furnished. However it is not as interesting as some of the others.

Then we went on to Chaumont, a fascinating fortress overlooking the Loire. Diane de Poitiers was forced to come here after Catherine de Medici made her trade Chenonceau for Chaumont. The stable is lovely. The horses lived as royally as the people.

We spent the night at Amboise in Le Lion D'or, a comfortable second-class hotel. I had requested a chamber avec salle de bain. My French is not the best. I learned a bathing room is exactly that. The water closet was elsewhere.

## 1964 FRANCE AND ENGLAND

Wednesday, April 15. We spent the morning exploring the castle of Amboise. It has a lovely view of the Loire, a lovely chapel and a huge keep.

Then we were off to Chenonceaux straddling the River Cher. This chateau is lovely, obviously designed by a woman. Diane de Poitiers had a lovely garden and it is easy to see why she hated to leave it for Chaummont!

Our next stop was Loches, described as a castle more than a chateau. The town has grown up inside the walls. Here, in the Logis de Roi is the tomb of Agnes Sorel, mistress of Charles VII. At the other end of the fort were the dungeons.

It is at Loches that we finally find a cordonier (shoemaker) who could fix the loose heel on my shoe. My somewhat sketchy French has made this trip quite an adventure. However, we both have gotten proficient enough to take the French tours, rather than wait for the periodic English ones. I can even recognize Louis Quatorze furniture.

We spent the night at the Chateau D'Artigny near Montbazou. It is lovely though expensive.

Thursday, April 16. We went to Villandry with its unique garden; each bed was shaped as a symbol of love such as hearts. Then we drove by Azay le Rideaux, another chateau built by a woman. This chateau is supposed to be the setting for the 'Sleeping Beauty'.

We then went to Chinon a magnificent ruin where Joan of Arc recognized her king and was given his support to raise an army.

Next we went to the Abbey de Fontevault. The abbey was unique in that it housed both men and women under the rule of an abbess. Many of the Abbesses were royal or connected to royalty. Since the French Revolution the Abbey had been used as a prison. In 1963, they moved the prisoners out and are restoring it. There is a lovely Gothic Church and graves of the Plantagenet kings: Henry 11 and his wife, Eleanor of Guienne, Richard the Lionhearted, and Isabel of Angouleme, wife of King John. Another fascinating part of the Abbey is the unique octagonal kitchen. We went on to Saumur for a quick look at the cavalry school.

I believe we did the suggested 7-day tour in 4 days! We were overloaded on Chateaus and headed north to Le Mans where we stayed at the Moderne Hotel.

Friday, April 17. We drove to Alençon to look at the cathedral and buy a lace handkerchief (for about \$20!). Then we went on to Haras du Pin where we had lunch (and viewed an auto accident). We did not go to the horse farm.

My father-in-law always claimed he was descended from Madame Marie Harel who invented Camembert cheese. So we had to go to Vermoutiers where we saw her headless statue. There was also a replica of the old statue given to the people of Vermoutiers by the people of Van Wert, OH. Marie cannot be an ancestor since she invented the cheese early in the nineteenth century long after our Harrells were in the United States, Eight miles south, we visited the town of Camembert itself, a sleepy hamlet.

Next we went to Falaise where William the Conqueror was born, illegitimately. The whole town was destroyed during the Second World War, but has been rebuilt. The fortress still stands, but it is closed on Friday. So we must content ourselves with looking at the outside and viewing Arlette's fountain (she was William's mother).

We spent the night in Evreux.

Saturday, April 18. We saw the cathedral of Evreux and then returned to Paris, checking in again at Le Rond Point. I had my hair done. The stylist teased and teased my hair and made a beehive. I didn't know I had a huge head! Then we went shopping for puppets for Martha and Mary. Also we bought snail holders and a lovely Limoges fish platter.

We had dinner at a wonderful restaurant for fish. It was hard to find since it had no sign on the street! If I ever knew its name I have lost it.

## 1964 FRANCE AND ENGLAND

Sunday, April 19. We went to Chaillot, a naval and maritime museum with all sorts of ship models, figure heads and so forth. Then, after lunch at a café we went to the Chateau de Vincennes with its interesting keep and 200-step climb up a circular stair to the ramparts.

We took the Metro to the Louvre, which we viewed from the outside in its cleaned up state. Then we went to the Lido for dinner. A drunken American at the next table who wanted to be “friends” marred the floorshow.

On our way back to the hotel we ran into Bill and Ginny Krieg on the Champs Elysees. They had just arrived in Paris for a business trip. We had a drink with them at a nearby café.

Monday, April 20. We went to the AAA to make the final settlement for the car.

Then we went by Metro and train to Fontainebleau, a most impressive Chateau. The palace is lavishly furnished and surrounded by gardens and woods.

Dinner that night was back in Paris at Laserre, a five-fork, three-star restaurant. However, it was somewhat of a disappointment. The service was rushed and the food, while good, just was not that good.

We called Martha to wish her a happy birthday.

Tuesday, April 21. We strolled the streets in the morning buying pop records for the children. At 12:22 we left Paris by the Golden Arrow bound for London. We were second-class to Calais and then upgraded to first class for the crossing of the Channel. A number of people were seasick (even while our stable ferry was still tied up at the dock!) It didn't seem that rough to us. In Dover we upgraded again to first-class deluxe and enjoyed high tea on the train. We got to London by 7:30 where Mother and Dad met us and took us to Dolphin Square where they have rented a flat at 109 Rodney. It's a nice flat but Mother would rather they stayed at the Stafford Hotel. The problem is that the Stafford is very expensive and they want to stay for a month or two. We had dinner in the restaurant of the apartment complex.

Wednesday, April 22. We took the Underground to the Tower of London and afterward met Mother and Dad at The Cheshire Cheese Pub. This is a very old pub with a lot of character. We went to Dr Johnson's house, which was nearby. Then we toured Saint Pails Cathedral and went back to the Tower to see the armor collection. As a result we missed the boat from Westminster back to Dolphin Square to change clothes.

We went to The Wild Boar for dinner after a futile try to get into Simpsons on Strand.

Thursday, April 23. We bought Peggy a riding habit on Regent Street. Then we went out to Epsom Downs for the races. These are different from ours, being on a grass track and having bookie betting among other things. We had lunch at the Royal Automobile Country Club (RAC) beforehand. Dad enjoys having a “club” like a proper Englishmen. That night we went to Simpson's on Strand for dinner and went back to the flat and played bridge.

Friday, April 24. We went to Buckingham Palace and had a grand hour watching the long show of changing the guards. Then we walked the Mall to St James Palace, crossed St James Park and had lunch at the Thistle Restaurant near Westminster Abbey. We toured the Abbey and St Margaret's Church nearby.

That night we went to Dad's “Royal Auto Club”, and went to the theater to see ‘No Strings’, a somewhat strange musical about an American who falls in love with an Egress in Paris.

Saturday, April 25. We went to see the Parliament Buildings in the morning and then drove out in the country to see Runnymede, Windsor and Henley. The private apartments

## 1964 FRANCE AND ENGLAND

at Windsor were closed. Mother says that when the Queen hears we want to go to Windsor, she always races out there so Mother can't see the private apartments!

We met Mother's friend, Emily Villiers-Stewart, for lunch at Stains in the Windsor Park Hotel.

We had dinner at Monkey Island in Bray, which is a lovely spot and then went back to London for a late drink at Emily's flat.

Sunday, April 26. Ev wasn't feeling well so I went with Mother and Dad to the Marble Arch to hear the orators, who were most amusing. Then we went to Petticoat Lane where we saw a [perbydon?] and bought some fish forks. I was disappointed with the poor selection of things.

We had lunch at Dolphin Square and took a nap in the afternoon.

That night we went square dancing with Kensington Kusins. They had an excellent caller.

Monday, April 27. We went to Hampton Court and that night went to The Contented Sole, the only Edwardian fish restaurant in London. The food was very good.

Tuesday, April 28. We went to Greenwich by train and saw the museum and the 'noon ball' drop. The Cutty Sark is the last of the clipper ships.

That evening we went to see the play 'The Foundation Dancers' [note: we really saw this another night but missed it in the journal]

We went to have dinner with Henry VIII at the Gore Hotel. I had too much claret! This is a tourist attraction that allows you to experience an Elizabethan dinner.

Wednesday, April 29. We took a cab to The Temple to see Middle Temple Hall. We saw the Octagonal Church, the Silver Vaults and the Guild Hall, which was excellent.

Then it was on to the British Museum to see the Elgin Marbles and the Magna Charta.

We saw the Horse guards inspected and dismounted. Then Number 10 Downing Street before going to Harrods and doing some shopping.

In the evening we saw "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and it was very funny. We had a late dinner in Soho.

Thursday, April 30. We spent the morning packing. Since we are returning to the US separately we had to carefully divide our weight and dutiable goods. Ev carried the fish platter home. I ended up with a pair of his shoes.

I saw him off at 12:30 and then met Mother at the Burlington Arcade and bought a cashmere skirt and sweater. We had lunch at Fortnum and Mason In the afternoon I worked at the Genealogical Society. I am trying to trace Dad's Exton ancestry.

We had cocktails at the Stafford and then went to the nearby Royal Ocean Racing Club, where we met the Commodore. We had dinner at the Stafford, courtesy of the Commodore. He is the treasurer of St Paul the Apostle.

Friday May 1. I worked some more at the Genealogical Society and then went on to Mme. Tussaud's waxworks. Nearby was St Mary-Le-Bone church, where Robert Browning and Elizabeth Browning were married, and also my ancestors, William Bainbridge and Teresa Maskins.

That night we went to see 'The Mousetrap' which has run in London for 12 years. It was very good. We went on to the Blue Boar for a late dinner.

Saturday, May 2. I went to the London County Council Member's Library to examine the Mary-Le-Bone records. I found no baptism records but did find William and Teresa's marriage record. I returned to the flat and we left at once for Stafford. We stopped and toured Warwick Castle, which is lovely, and obviously someone lives there. We were

## 1964 FRANCE AND ENGLAND

told the Earl was entertaining there that night. In Warwick we also saw the Elizabethan Lord Leicester Hospital.

We spent the night at the Warwick Arms, a somewhat drab but comfortable inn. My room was freezing cold and, after I found the window was warped and permanently open; I tried to get the small heater to work. I had my shilling but could not figure it out. The maid came and after many tries made it work. I believe no one had ever tried to start it before!

Sunday, May 3. In Stratford-On-Avon, we saw the house where William Shakespeare was born. He was 400 years old just last week. It was an interesting building.

Then we went on to Bourton-on-the-water in the Cotswolds. This is where they have a delightful miniature model of the village.

Next we went to Chipping Camden where we walked around on its lovely streets. We had lunch at the Lygon Arms in Broadway.

At last we headed for Euxton in Lancashire, which is where the Extons are from. We called on the Rev. Hope and then checked into the Royal Oak Hotel in Chorley, a strange hotel where the whole ground floor is a series of pubs and it is locked until 6:00PM. Who would want to come there while the pubs are closed! The second floor is the lobby with dining room and Mother and Dad's bedroom. My room is on the third floor next to the only bathroom in the hotel. They apologized for putting me next to it! My room is basic but the heater does work!

Monday, May 4. We looked at the Leyland Church records in the morning but found no trace of William Exton's baptism. So we went to Preston, to find the County Antiquarian, Mr. Sharpe French, at the county record office. Only we have a terrible time finding the record office and when we got there, Mr. French had gone to lunch.

We went back to Chorley to pick up Mother and have lunch ourselves.

Again we went to Preston and Mr. French told us that the Extons were probably dissenters. They had to be married in the Church of England for it to be legal, but that did not apply to baptisms. We examined the Chorley records, which are at Preston but found nothing.

We headed for Kenilworth where we spent the night at the Queen and Castle, which is delightful and right across the road from the ruins.

With this the journal ends. This trip was very special since Mother and Dad wanted to show us the England they loved. They had bought a Bentley automobile to bring home. Dad died the next November so we could not have done it the following year.

I remember coming back through customs in New York and being asked to open one bag. The inspector was startled to find a pair of men's shoes in my luggage.

In the back of the book I found the prices for customs declaration, which Ev and I divided.

1 fish set – two pounds

ashtrays – one franc

dolls – ten francs

tile – 10 francs

handkerchief - \$20

Peynet book –

Snail holders

Liberty scarf