



Karen

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Zurich is Switzerland's largest city located on a lake in northern Switzerland.

In 1963 your mother and I took a ski flight thru the Hartford Ski Club and only used the discounted flight. We did not ski with anyone on the flight. I planned what we would do on our own for over 3 weeks. We flew into Munich and out of Zurich three + weeks later. It was our first trip to Europe.

We were flying along and it was a nice day. Then there was an announcement that we were stopping at Heathrow to refuel. We looked out the window and saw a cloud down below. We flew down into that cloud that was full of rain, landed in the rain, refueled, and then flew up and out of that cloud into the sun again. Typical England.

We spent one night in Munich and went to an inside beergarden/restaurant. When the waiter came around with the bill he asked how many pieces of bread and rolls we had eaten? I was not aware I was supposed to count and pay by the roll. It made sense, but a practice we were unfamiliar with.

The next day we took a train to Kitzbuhel, Austria and stayed at a lovely small hotel: The Weisses Rossel (White Rose). Kitzbuhel was great. We then took a train to Wien (Vienna) for two days. We went to the Opera and I wore my blue corduroy sport jacket with yellow horizontal and vertical stripes. I kept telling your mother people were staring at me because they were jealous. Unfortunately the opera we attended was not in English. How gross. But we sat next to a librettist who kindly explained what was going on.

We then took the Arlberg Express to St Anton and skied St Anton, Zurs, and Lech. We stayed in a small pension. Each morning we awoke to hear the wife scrubbing the floor outside our room. A practice your mother never learned. The man of the house went down the hill to drink beer with his buddies and pick up groceries for the frau to cook for the guests. I decided I wanted to become an Austrian.

We then took the train to Davos, Switzerland stayed in an uninteresting large hotel and skied Davos Dorf and Davos Platz. We then took a VW Bus from Davos to Zurich via Liechtenstein. I can't remember where we stayed, but it was at a nice hotel in the city. When I was in the Army I had a buddy: Paul Nibelink and his wife Alva. They had been to Zurich. I wrote Paul and he suggested I call Frau Schnellbelli-landolt. I assumed she was a friend of Paul's. We were in Zurich three days so we agreed on an afternoon where she would show us around. I had rented a car as we wanted to drive one day to Lucerne. We met her. We drove around and she pointed out items of interest. We stopped at a lovely restaurant on a hill overlooking Lake Zurich for lunch. We learned the lake only freezes once in 7 years, and it was frozen when we were there. The Swiss get so excited about the lake being frozen some walk out, break thru the ice and drown. A beautiful Swiss story. So we dropped our new friend off and I thanked her for showing us around. Something seemed wrong. Your wise mother asked if we could pay her and learned she was a professional guide, not simply a "friend" of the Nibelinks.

One night we went to a Burlesque in Zurich. Probably the best I've ever attended. Don't tell Dunc.

One morning, on a whim, I picked up the phone and called Swiss Re (one of the largest reinsurance companies in the world). I told them I was an actuary from Connecticut General and was here with my frau on a ski trip. I was surprised that they invited us to lunch. I was not even an officer of CG. I asked for their address and they said no, they would send a limo. We were picked up, taken to the executive dining room where we met senior people and had cocktails and a great lunch. We then had a short tour and a visit with one of the senior officers who described their organization structure broken down by reinsurance operations geographically around the world. We were then invited to have dinner at the home of a young actuary and his wife. An unplanned terrific day.

One day we went into an art shop and I bought the attached picture for \$15 or so, that we had framed in CT. It hung in our dining room for years. Now it is in front of my computer desk in Vermont. I said that I will know when I have "arrived" when I pay more for a picture than for the frame.



I don't know how long you will be in Schweiz. Stay longer than you are thinking about staying. Dunc will have meetings to attend. If he must return early, let him. To get an idea of popular things to do in or from Zurich:

<http://www.viator.com/Zurich/d577-ttd?page=2&topx=16-30>

http://www.grayline.com/Zurich/View_All

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/zurich/0069010019.html>

<http://www.zuerich.com/en/Visitor/tours/city-tours.html>

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Zurich>

Dad

PS Start packing your lederhosen und dirndls