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Pages: 2 (typed)	Family news	

September 12, 1980

Dear Folks:

It has been over three busy week since we came from Europe, but today I can give you a brief resume of our delightful trip.

On a range of from 1 to 10, I would give it an 11. It was super and we both enjoyed it immensely. It was very well planned. There were 76 of us on this tour. We had two buses, and each bus had a guide. Ours was from England. She was tall, attractive, intelligent and very pleasant, had such a nice voice, really did a good job. Our driver was from Holland and he did a good job too. Except for our first night, our accomodations were first class everywhere.

We flew from O'Hare to New York, and from there to Rome, changed planes in Rome, and flew to Naples, here we took a bus to Sorrento, where we had our first two nights. From here we took a hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri. Beautiful sight. Leaving Sorrento, we had a tour of Pompei, that too was really good, and then on to Rome. Here we saw so much, but a few of the highlights were, St. Paul's cathedral, the Coliseum, the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, which of course included St. Peter's. We through coins in the fountain. We were in Rome for two nights, and the second night we went to Tivoli gardens for dinner and a tour. Here there were over one hundred lighted waterfalls, unreal.

From Rome we went on the Florence, but had a tour of Assisi on the way. This was great, the your priest that told about it did such a good job. He talked about St. Francis, as if he had almost known him himself. I loved Florence, here we saw the statue of David, along with much more, but that was one of the highlights. Florence was the gold and leather center of the world. So Bob and I each bought a leather coat, and we got the girls some earrings. From Florence we had a trip to Pisa and believe me that tower is really leaning, 30 feet at this time.

From Florence we went to Venice. I realized that Venice had canals, but I did not know that it was completely surrounded by water. Here we had a gondola ride, along with so much more.

From Venice we went on the Salzburg, here we saw where Sound of Music had been filmed, heard a string quartet of Mozart music, and on an on. We went to Innsbrook and on to Oberamagau, here we spent two nights in a lovely motel in a small town near by. I say that our trip was the cake, and the Passion Play was the frosting. It was very well done, we had perfec seats, the music was great, and it was everything that it should be.

After Oberamgau, we went on St. Moritz, Switzerland and then back to Lake Como, for our last night. Each of these places were delightful. We flew back from Milan.

Of course between all the beautiful cities, were the mountains, the valleys, the streams and the little villages. They told us that it had been the worst summer in Europe in 50 years until two weeks before we came, then it warmed up and dried up, and it was truly at its peak. Everything so green and so many flowers.

I could go on and on, but I realize that you have all been there too, so you know what I am talking about. I especially liked the beautiful marble staircases and pillars, and in all of the cathedral. We see so little marble here that I guess I really appreciated it.

As I said everything was well planned, our buses drove over 1600 miles, we had no problems, no one got sick or hurt. The only thing we had to do was to put our luggage out in front of our doors but a certain time in the morning and they were delivered to our rooms at our next stop. Our accommodations were great and we saw so much, that we really feel we had a bargain.

We will be glad to show you our pictures anytime that you want to hop on an airplane and come and see them.

All goes well here. Bob is still traveling, will come back from Baltimore tonight. Paul is still with us, has worked in St. Charles for over nine months now, Ann is back in school, Mary had a three week tour of St. America and got home on July 18. She hasn't found a teaching job yet, but keeps busy doing other things, she is out in Michigan now. Barbara loves her job and living in Champagne.

This is all for tonight. I still have a few more things to do before I go home.

Take care and let us hear from you.

Love, Lorraine.