

TUE May 11, 1999
WED May 12, 1999

AFTER MUCH CONCERN REGARDING WHAT WAS PERMISSIBLE TO GET INTO FRANCE & HOW MUCH BAGGAGE WEIGHED, WE WERE RELIEVED, IN FORT LAUDERDALE, FOR AS THE BAGGAGE WEIGH-DO WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SKY-CAP WHO, BY HEFTING & NODDING TO THE TICKET CLERK, ALL OK TO THE WEIGHT DEPT. FOR THE RECORD WE EACH HAD A SHOULDER CASE/BAG & A CARRY ON ROLLER CASE (20") PLUS THE 2 DOFFELS EACH.

WHEN WE REACHED THE BAGGAGE CAROCEL, IN LYON, WE WERE DOUBLE DELIGHTED! OUR 20" ROLLING CARRY-ONS (WHICH WERE) PLACED IN BAGGAGE IN AMSTERDAM & ALL OUR LOGGAGE LANDED WITH US, WHAT A COUNTRY!! THEN USING TWO FREE LOGGAGE WHEELERS (WHERE I ALMOST PUNCHED OUT A FRENCHMAN TRYING TO PUSH HIS WHEELER THROUGH ME) EXITED TO THE PARKING LOT, SEEING NO CUSTOMS PEOPLE & SHOWING

NO PASSPORTS WENT MERRILY
ON OUR WAY.

Sunday May 16TH
Today we decided, beforehand,
to relax around the boat. It turned
out to be one of the two sunny days
we've had so far. We're tired from
traveling, shopping (provisions &
boat necessities) doing boat jobs
& the general ups & downs & backs
& forth. I planted a flower box
of geraniums, I fixed the
rummy tiles, etc. We sat, w the
sun on the forward deck with
drinks, AMNH! UNTIL BANG, BANG.
Local hunters had decided to
shoot crows on the island near
the marina & pellets rained down
on the boats. A complaint was
logged with the Gen Darns who
responded "IT'S NORMAL". Anyhow
there are a lot less crows.

Monday, May 17TH

TODAY'S MISSION PRIORITIES, RETURN THE CAR & TRY TO GET BOBBOB'S CELL PHONE FIXED SO IT CAN SEND AS WELL AS RECEIVE E-MAIL. THIS MEANS A TRIP TO DIJON, CENTER CITY FOR BOTH, AN EARLY DAY.

IT TOOK ALL MORNING @ FNAC, WHERE BOB BOUGHT THE PHONE & THE E-MAIL CONTRACT TO GET SUCCESS, EVEN THOUGH BOB TRIED ^{TWICE} ~~ONCE~~ BEFORE, LANGUAGE & TECHNICALS A SEVERE PROBLEM TO OVERCOME. AS IT WAS MONDAY MOST STORES ARE CLOSED. WE DID FIND A PHARMACIE & A CAFE OPEN. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ALMOST ALL LOCALS UNDERSTAND SPOKEN ENGLISH. THEY, HOWEVER, ALLOW ALIENS TO STRUGGLE WITH FRENCH BEFORE SPEAKING IN ENGLISH.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE DOWNTOWN DIJON IS BREATHTAKING & CONFUSING. I TRIED TO GO BACK TO WHERE WE PARKED THE CAR TO GIVE THE METER-MAN MORE \$. I GOT LOST & RETURNED IN IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT. I FIND THE LOCALS FRIENDLY

STARTED ANTI-BIOTEC TODAY

⌘ HELPFUL. IN PARTICULAR THE FNAC CLERK, PHILLIPE, WHO'S BROTHER TEACHES MARINE SUBJECTS AT U. OF MIAMI. WE MAY GET A VISIT IN MARATHON.

I FIND THE STREETS ⌘ PUBLIC FACILITIES VERY CLEAN. I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THAT CONDITION.

TO GET HOME WE HAD TO TAKE THE TRAIN FROM DIJON TO ST. JEAN DE LOSNE. NATURALLY ⌘ REQUIRED A HEAD. SHE NEEDED 2 FRANKS TO GET IN. I ON THE OTHER HAND COULD USE THE URINALS FREE.

THE URINALS WERE IN THE SAME HALLWAY AS THE W/C'S MODESTLY SECLUDED BY CAFE DOORS

I WAS VERY HAPPY WITH THE DE JOUR LUNCH OFFERING. PORK WITH LIGHT TOMATO SAUCE, ROAST POTATOES, A LOVELY SALAD BOEDIC TEA ⌘ FLAN FOR DESSERT. ⌘ HAD HOT DOGS ⌘ FRENCH FRIES, BOG BUCCOED MY MEAL, ALL FOR 183 FRF (\$30±) TOOK MY CREDIT CARD ⌘ I DIDN'T EVEN SIGN THE CHIT. CAFE LE DECULIC.

THINGS I KNEW - WHICH TURNED OUT
TO BE WRONG.

All PUBLIC TELEPHONE BUTTONS HAD
NUMBERS & LETTERS. (FRANCH TELECOM
HAS NUMBERS ONLY.)

IN FRANCE THEY DRIVE ON THE LEFT
LIKE ENGLAND. NOT THEY DRIVE ON
THE RIGHT LIKE AMERICANS.

All SUPERMARKET CARTS CAN BE
PUSHED FORWARD. (IN FRANCE THEY GO
SIDWAYS UNLESS YOUR W. TUSCOU D'OR
WHERE THE WHEELS HAVE COGS TO GO UP
& DOWN ON ESCALATORS.)

EVERY COUNTRY ACCEPTS AMERICAN MONEY.
(INTERNATIONAL CREDIT CARDS - YES - SOMETIMES
IN THE SAME STORE)

ENTRÉE IS THE MAIN PORTION OF THE MEAL
(IN FRANCE) ITS THE APPETIZER - MAKES SENSE

Any TEENAGER INSTINCTIVELY RIDES A MOPED.
IN FRANCE THEY HAVE SCHOOLS - ECOLE MOBILETTI

NINE PM IS DARK TIME EVERYWHERE. IN FRANCE DARKNESS OCCURS BETWEEN 11 PM & 4 AM, ALL ELSE IS BRIGHT UNLESS ITS RAINING OR CLOUDY.

SUMMER STARTS ON THE 21ST OF JUNE. IN FRANCE & SUMMER HASN'T STARTED & IT'S JULY. UPTILL NOW ITS BEEN NEW JERSEY FALL & EARLY WINTER.

ALL PAPER-ROLL PRODUCTS ARE THE SAME SIZE - NOT ONLY ARE THEY METRIC, IN FRANCE, BUT THEY ARE DOWNSIZED & NOT TOO SOFT.

WEATHER HAS MOVES QUICKLY, ONLY OVER ISLANDS. IN FRANCE WEATHER CHANGES MOMENT BY MOMENT.

FRENCH WOMEN ALL HAVE BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES & NAILS. ACTUALLY THE CLOTHES ARE DRAB & DEPRESSING COLOR, WITH GAG-ME COMBOS. THEY ALL BRING THEIR NAILS TO THE NUSS.

EVERYBODY SMOKES!!

NEW JERSEY INVENTED THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE. THEY HAVE BEEN USED EXTENSIVELY IN FRANCE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS & ARE ~~MORE~~ MUCH BETTER TO LOOK AT (BEDECKED WITH FLOWERS, STATUES ETC).

~~B~~ COLORADO HAS THE FASTEST DRIVER
ALL FRENCH DRIVERS ARE PARTICIPANTS IN THE "LE MANS" ANYWHERE THEY ARE.

FACT

THE ROAD SIGNS IN FRANCE ARE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN. WITH ANY DECENT MAP & AN IDEA OF WHERE YOU WANT TO GO, IT'S EASY TO GET THERE FOLLOWING SIGNAGE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.