

12

I do want to note that the people are spotless & well groomed, albeit that they are not dressed in Haute Couture, and the restaurants, businesses & streets are very very clean.

At this moment we are gliding along at about 12 knots. The sun is sparkling, we occasionally pass a barge going in the opposite direction. Some even have cars on them. They almost all have lace curtains. It is peaceful, beautiful and interesting.

The wild flowers on the shores are sparse, as the blooming season is just beginning, but they are very lovely. I've seen rose of Sharon, narcissus, Iris, trees in bloom of varieties that I can't place, and berry bushes profusely covered with flowers. The trees are evergreens and deciduous varieties that are familiar, but absent so far are dog woods. A surprise, since we are approximately on the same latitude as Boston. Strangely, to us, though, is that at 10:10 P.M. east night, the sun had just set.

Note: Mont, Bob & I are getting along just fine. A minor miracle considering that a week is about max that guests are tolerable on a boat.

Note: The foods in the market are so different that cooking is an adventure. More on this later.

Important: Last night just before dinner was to be put on the stove, the gas sniffer alarm went off. In a minute hatches were opened and Bob & Mort were crawling through bilge sniffing and checking. Their conclusion was that the sniffer device is set at a place that is too sensitive. (Bob says that there is a way to adjust it to a lesser sensitivity, which he will do soon I hope. For the time being the circuit breaker is off on the alarm). Immediately after this it was my job to light the propane stove. I'm still here, so I guess we had no gas build up in the boat.

Our plan, which may or may not come to fruition, is to pull into Auxonne some time around 11:00 AM. (we will see how accurate their guess was - of course it all depends how busy the lock is)

Then we plan to go into town for La Plat de Jour, get propane & perhaps see the 13th Century Church. This time we hope to stay on the other side of the Auxonne bridge (Pont de Auxonne) at the floating piers.

note: I am taking full advantage of the Mavica & should have some beautiful pictures. At the moment I am being serenaded by 2 or 3 Coucou, Truly music!

we came into the floating quays at 10:30 A.M. After securing everything, we went into town to the little restaurant that we ate at last time, for Le Plat de Jour, our main meal of the day.

We were first served a plate with 6 thin slices of a wide sausage. There was a pat of butter in the center of the plate. We watched the locals cut a ~~slice~~ ^{piece} of the folded over sausage slice, and spread it with butter, before popping it into their mouths. (The sausage was full of fat globules & it was more fat on fat) But when in Rome! So we tried it & it was very tasty, but we each ~~only~~ ate ^{only} part of the appetizer. Then they served a filet of Dinde (Turkey) in a cream, mushroom, seasoned sauce with a fine pasta on the side. (The pasta ~~is~~ was not al dente) It was delicious. For dessert we had Coffee ice cream. That, including our beverages came to 190ff, or \$11.00 per person.


We ~~also~~ visited the wonderful old church, as we had hoped to be able to do, and it was a "snag" into the past. Very interesting.

After picking up our daily Croissants & Baguettes we returned to sun on our lovely foredeck, (Pictures to follow), and watched the parade of locals that is constant on the Quay.

Oh what an evening we had! Just after a wonderful dinner - al fresco - on the back deck, we found that we had a major blockage from the sewer & shower & sink system

* Our first really good sausage and Cheese, and Spinach. I was able to find it Frozen & homemade Macaroni

(Begin on Page 15) ***
Friday
May 28
1999

Friday, May 28, 1999 

(15)

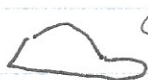
in the heads. The men worked until after midnight, changing out the maseator. = pump to the holding tank to no. avail.)

*** We awoke to a pretty day, and Bob decided that our power situation was in need of help. Two generators later we had a kw gen on the aft deck providing all of the power we need. Bob is a Lassy Man. (This did not last (see *** on page 14))

They worked so hard on the heads, etc. this night. We feel so sorry for Bob. To Expense the work, and he is worried about us. We of course are worried about him. So tomorrow it is Back to St. Jean for more repairs. We tell Bob that we are here to help him shake the boat down, and ~~try~~ ^{do} not mind any inconveniences. He of course feel terrible.

Saturday, May 29, 1999



 Response to St. Jean

We awake early to make our way back to St. Jean. We used the port a potty next to the dockmaster's shed. The cleanest one we have ever seen.

L'Ark had successfully passed through the lock by 8:50 A.M. (Bob's heart is heavy, and his pocketbook gets lighter)

This river is magnificent. The early morning warblers are providing ~~to~~ me, as I sit here on the foredeck ~~is~~ ^{with} the most melodious serenade. The air is filled with the perfume of spring flowers. Delightful

8:50
awaken.

apps! just got a kit of Eau de Vache, (manure in English) (16)

While the men from the marina are, hopefully, working on our problem, I will take all of our towels (they all got involved in the problem) to the marina laundry mat and wash them in the hottest water I can get. ^{note:} (I cannot identify any detergent for clothes other than Woolite which I know we will not be allergic to.) Each load costs about 6 American to wash, but takes much longer than in American washers. (60 minutes to a wash) 30 minutes to an almost dry.

They will see to a repair on one of the Malibettes which suddenly will not start. (Found out later it had ^{only been} flooded.)

At the moment we are passing a Cattle farm. I do not know if it is dairy or meat cattle, but we were warned by the Quits that Mad Cow disease is a fact here, and not to eat the beef. We are avoiding game, but Bobbie eats beef whenever he can. I pray for him.

Cooking is a challenge, and if you don't shop everyday salad and fresh veggies are not on the menu. We miss good lettuce. There is one variety here that is tasty, but so fragile that it cannot be kept for more than a day or two. ^{at most.} The size of the fridge is also a factor.

I have, however, squiggled away 7 meals in its ~~18~~ 18" x 12" x 6" freezer. Also it holds 2 trays of ice and a quart of ice cream. (Some of the best ice cream I have ever eaten) Our diet, ^{by necessity,} is high in cheese, starch and pork ^{& chicken.} If it wasn't for all of the walking, I (we) would be getting fat. However, my clothes are getting looser every day.