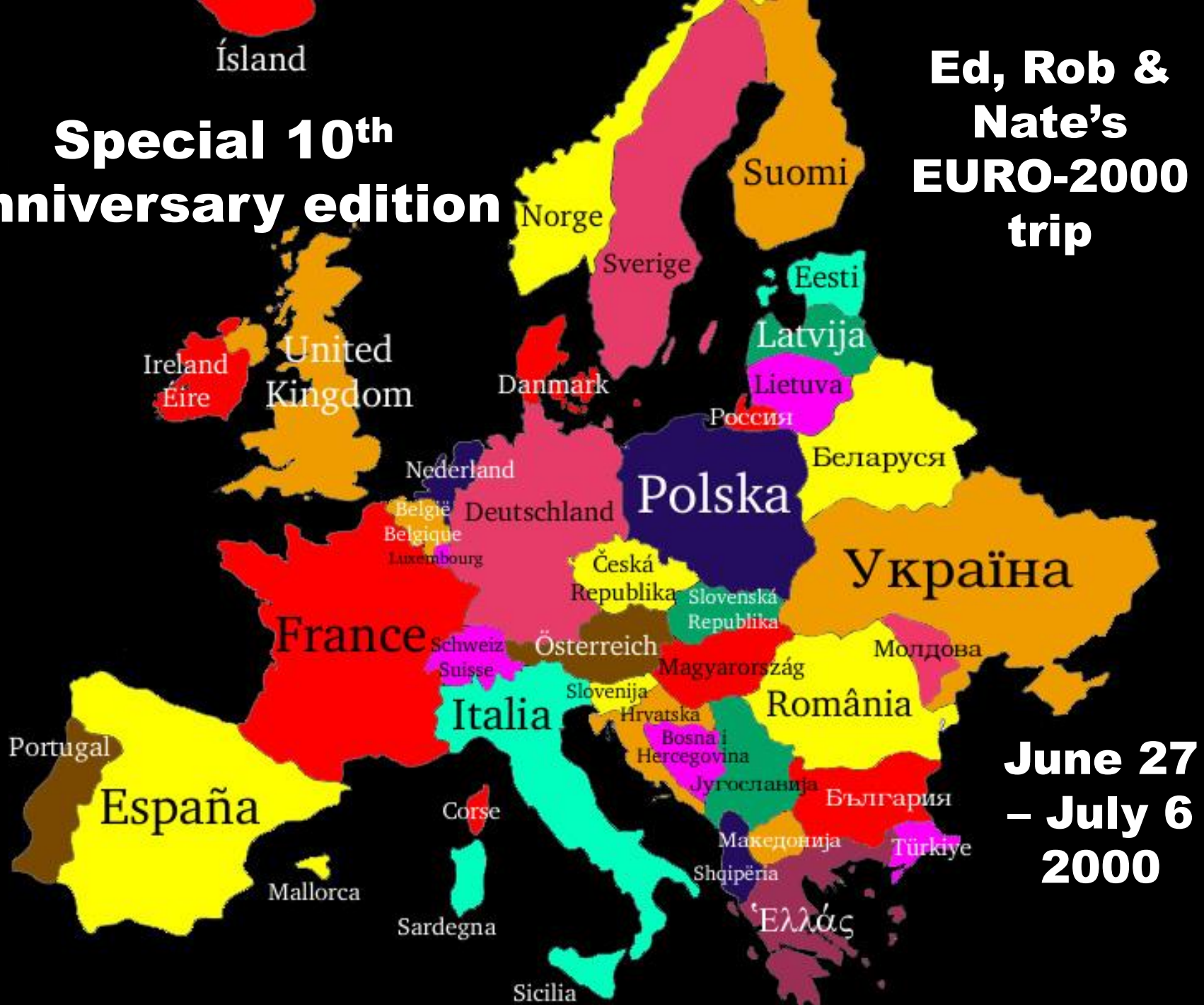


**Special 10th
anniversary edition**

**Ed, Rob &
Nate's
EURO-2000
trip**



**June 27
– July 6
2000**

Rob Gerlach & Ed Stein – born within 6 weeks of each other in the spring of 1956, graduated high school in 1974 and college in 1978. Both professional music educators... both happily married to our dear wives... both with an itch to go places, see & do things in a “guy’s” way about it – anywhere from *no* to *low* class mode of travel. Our wives may not understand it, but we appreciate their tolerance.

We remember the camaraderie our fathers had with their buddies when we were growing up... so, we’re just like any “fishin buddies,” except our escape is traveling on a somewhat free & open schedule. One might say, “brothers from different mothers.”

Whoda thunk it... back in the fall of 1997 when Ed took the position of Band Director at Round Rock High School where Rob’s son was a student, and Rob was Concessionaire on the band booster exec. board... that a decade of travel in the new millennium would begin.

Spring Break of 1999 Ed took the band on a trip to England & Wales. Rob went along as a parent chaperone. On one of the first bus excursions we took the only two seats left on the bus – next to each other. Ed noted that Rob was carefully following a road map on our trip, and we talked TRAVEL which we later humorously dubbed “travel erotica” while in Oregon in 2004.

By the fall of 1999 we were getting together after high school football games and unwinding with another mutual interest – drinking premium beer, especially imported ones.

Nathan Prater came on as an assistant band director. Nathan & Ed were planning a guy trip to Europe with their dads in the summer of 1999. Both dads eventually lost interest in going. The trip was cancelled when Ed broke his ankle while riding wave runners on Lake Travis with Rob. They decided to try summer, 2000. One cool November night after a football game, Ed & Nate asked Rob to come along on the trip. Some days later Rob had a “window of opportunity” to run the idea up the flagpole with Joan to see how far it would get. The cards fell in their favor for it came to pass that permission was obtained and the departure date was set for Tuesday, June 27, 2000. Three seemingly normal American men want to backpack the old country, the motherland, the ancestral stomping ground via foot and rail...

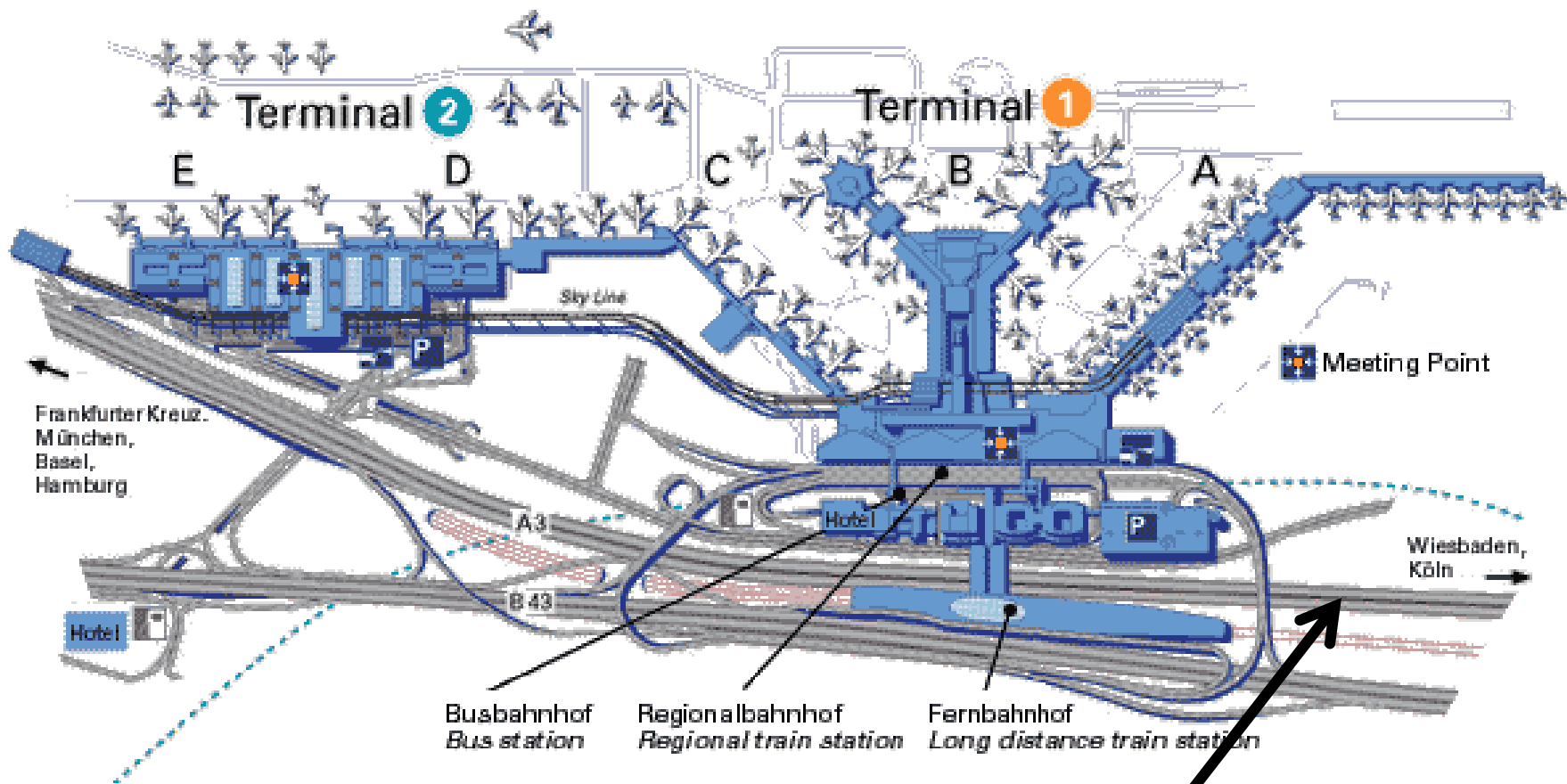


27 July 2000 Our AUS – DFW flight left at 12:33. We had time for first celebratory beer at Austin airport – Bud and/or Miller Lite. At DFW airport – pictured here - Nate had *Heineken*, Ed & Rob had *Fat Tire*. Then we sat on the plane for a 3-hour weather delay.

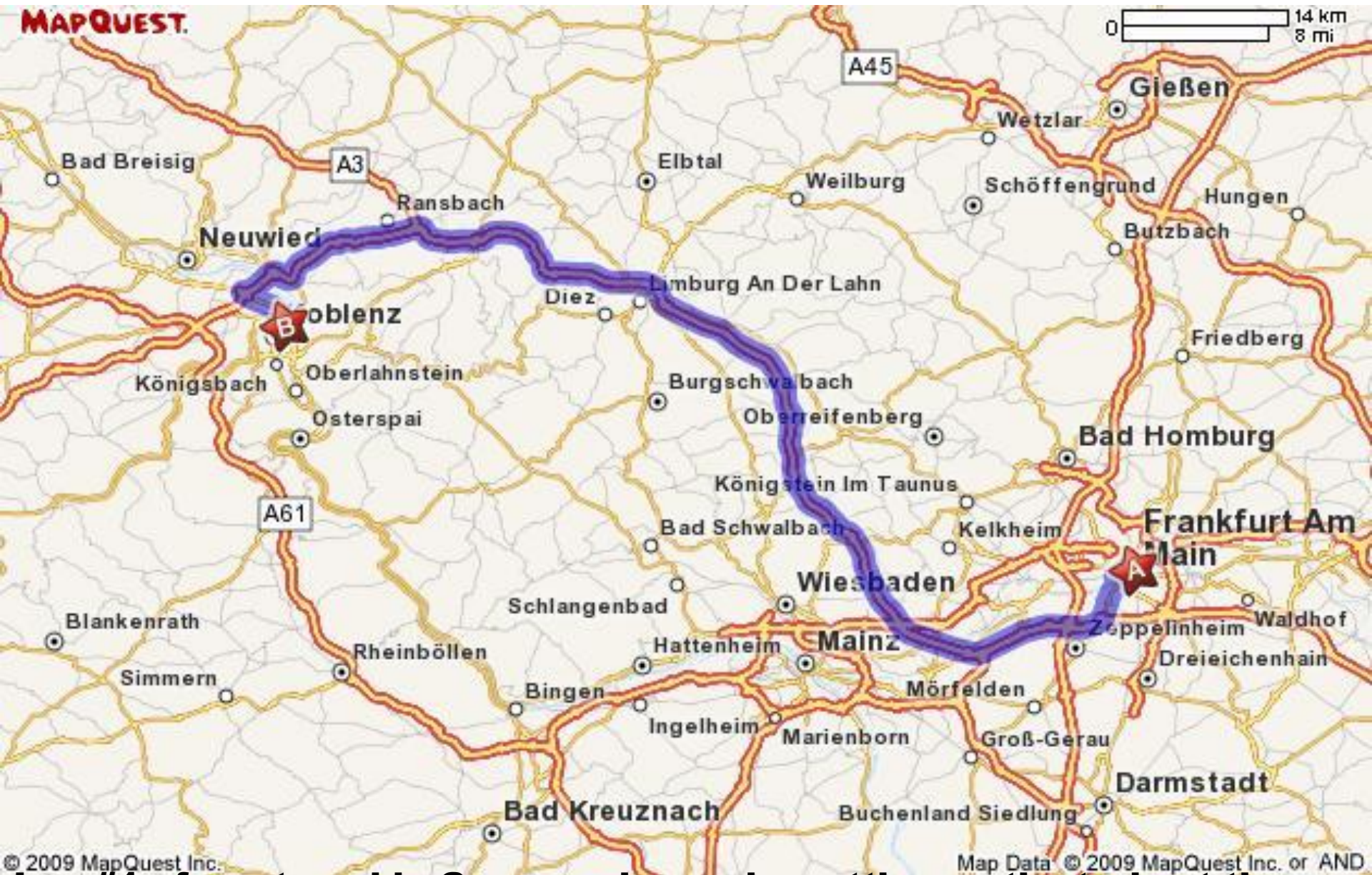


Day #2 28 June 2000

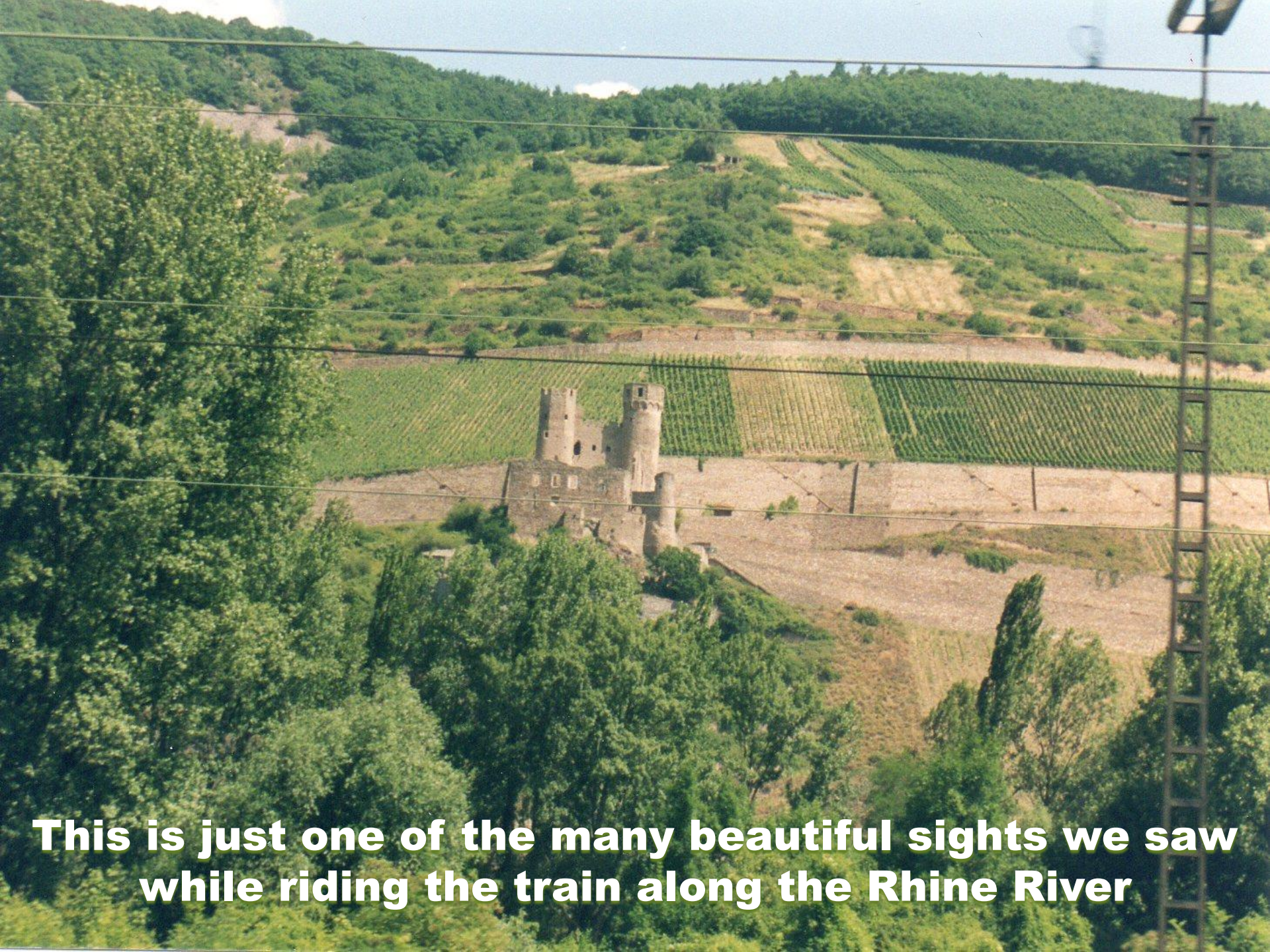
After arriving mid-morning at Frankfurt, we had our first beer at 10:22 a.m. while still at the airport. Then we got on a train heading north and west, mostly along the Rhine River.



We took this train



Leg #1 of our travel in Germany began by getting on the train at the airport. The train route didn't exactly follow the roadmap here but the result was the same.

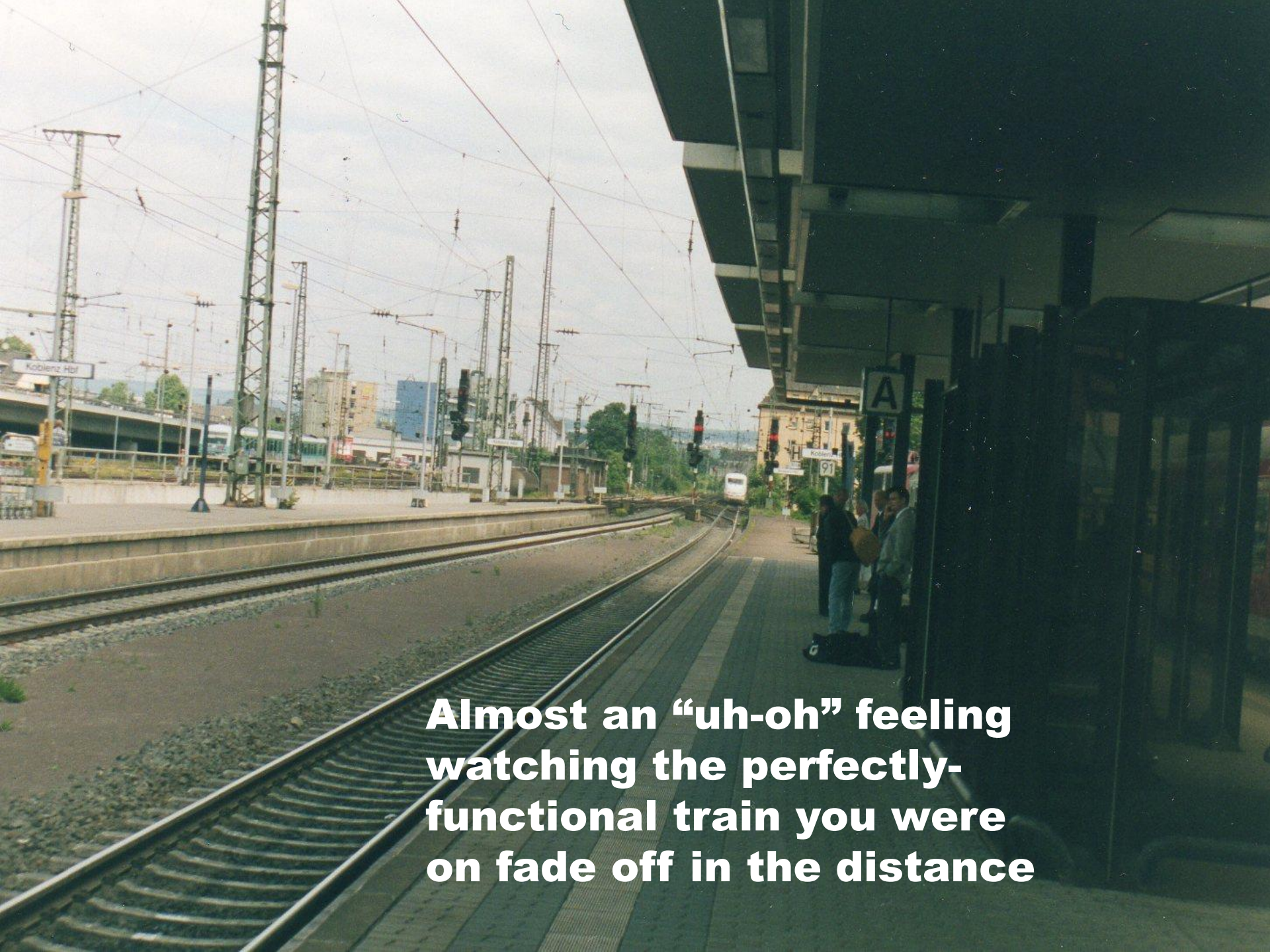


This is just one of the many beautiful sights we saw while riding the train along the Rhine River





It's about 78 miles from Frankfurt to Koblenz. We randomly picked this town to get off the train and walk around awhile



**Almost an “uh-oh” feeling
watching the perfectly-
functional train you were
on fade off in the distance**

After obtaining a city map found on the next slide, we found the hike & bike trail along the Rhine (Rhein) River. Note we circled the *i* at the information center where we picked up the brochure, and also the place where we would catch the boat on the Rhine. The city of Koblenz was largely destroyed during WWII but now rebuilt.



KOBLENZ-TOURISTIK
 Hofplatz 7 · 56068 Koblenz
 Tel 02 61/3 03 88-0 · Fax 02 61/3 03 88-11

TOURIST-INFORMATIONEN
 Hofstr. 141 · 56068 Koblenz
 Tel 02 61/3 13 04 · Fax 02 61/1 00 43 88

Historisches Rathaus · Eing. Jesuitenpl.
 56068 Koblenz
 Tel 02 61/13 09 20 · Fax 02 61/1 30 92 11

▼ Stadtteile ARZHEIM - NIEDERBERG - ARENBERG - IMMENDORF ▼

It was a beautiful day to be outside





**Our first line
of business
was to get
some food
and beer from
this sidewalk
café along the
Rhine. About
1:15 p.m.**



The café provided this less-than-lovely restroom facility for its patrons



Some colorful sights along the Rhine

**Before boarding the KD (Köln-Düsseldorfer) up the Rhine River, we stopped at a sidewalk café called “Garden Eden” and enjoyed another beer. A roaming accordion player caught our attention and Ed tipped the guy.
2 p.m.**



Cologne (Köln) was our destination for the evening and we could go by train or boat... or both. We boarded in Koblenz not knowing how far we'd go.





Andernach

KOBLENZ

**This was
our river
route on
the KD line
- Koblenz
to
Andernach**



**The temp
was
probably
mid 60's.
Enjoying the
ride UP the
Rhine that
flows
northward.
The beer
was ok. Life
is good!**

Some interesting sights as we cruise up the Rhine.





We decided to get off the boat at Andernach



In Texas you might find flowers this color in March. After that they burn up in the heat. This is just one example of the many flower beds in Europe this time of year.



We stumbled upon the Andernach cathedral. We figure since there is no stained glass, it must have been bombed out during the war.

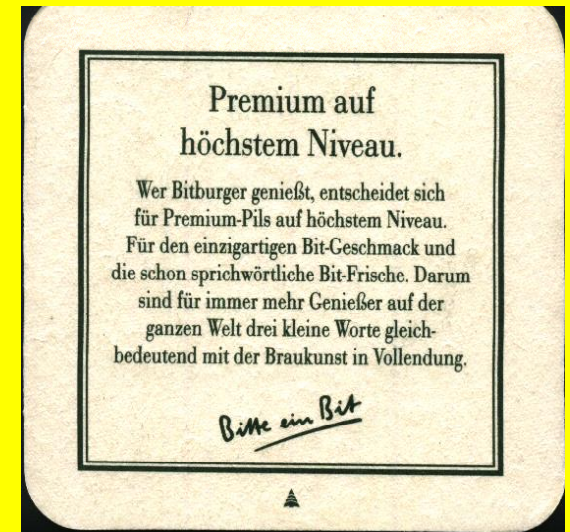
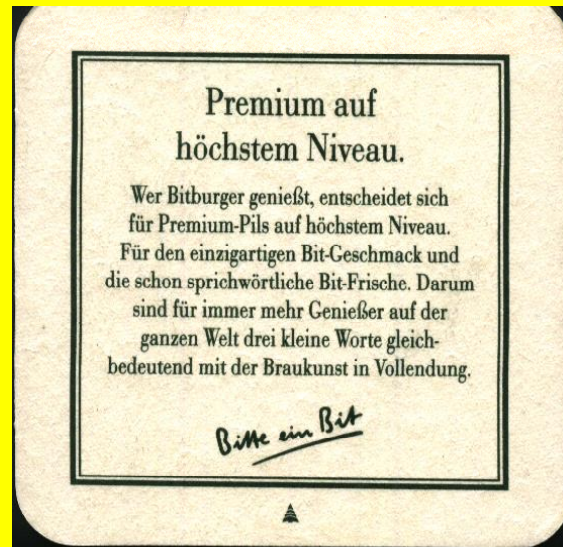
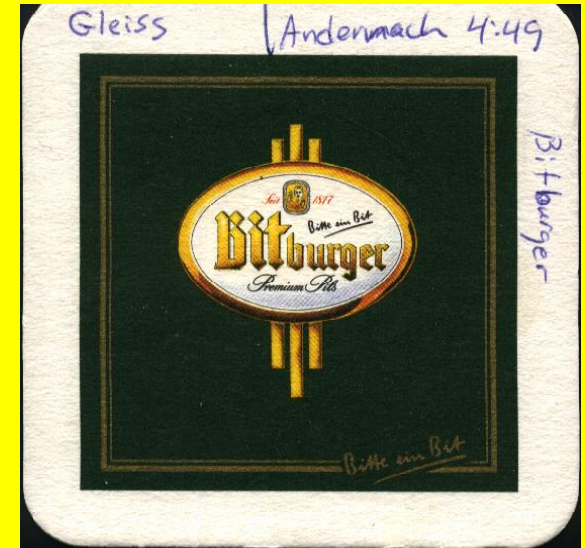
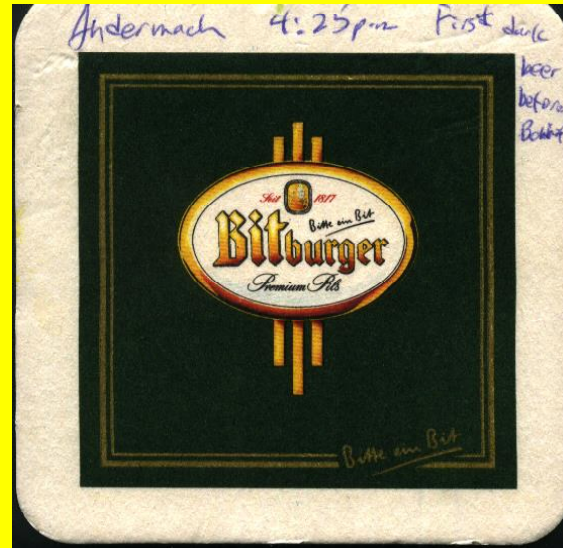
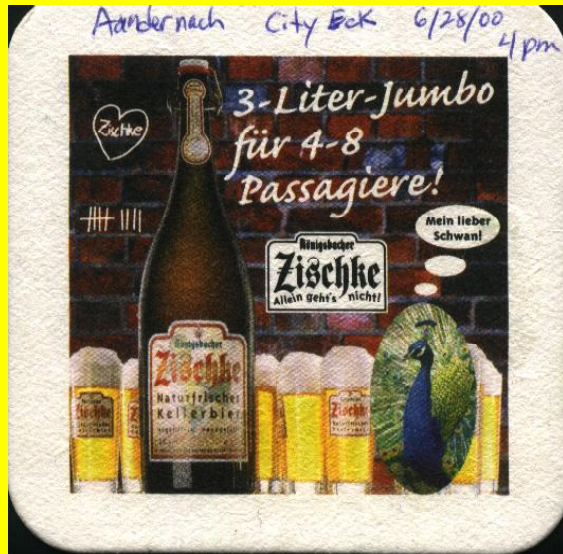


Interesting organ façade

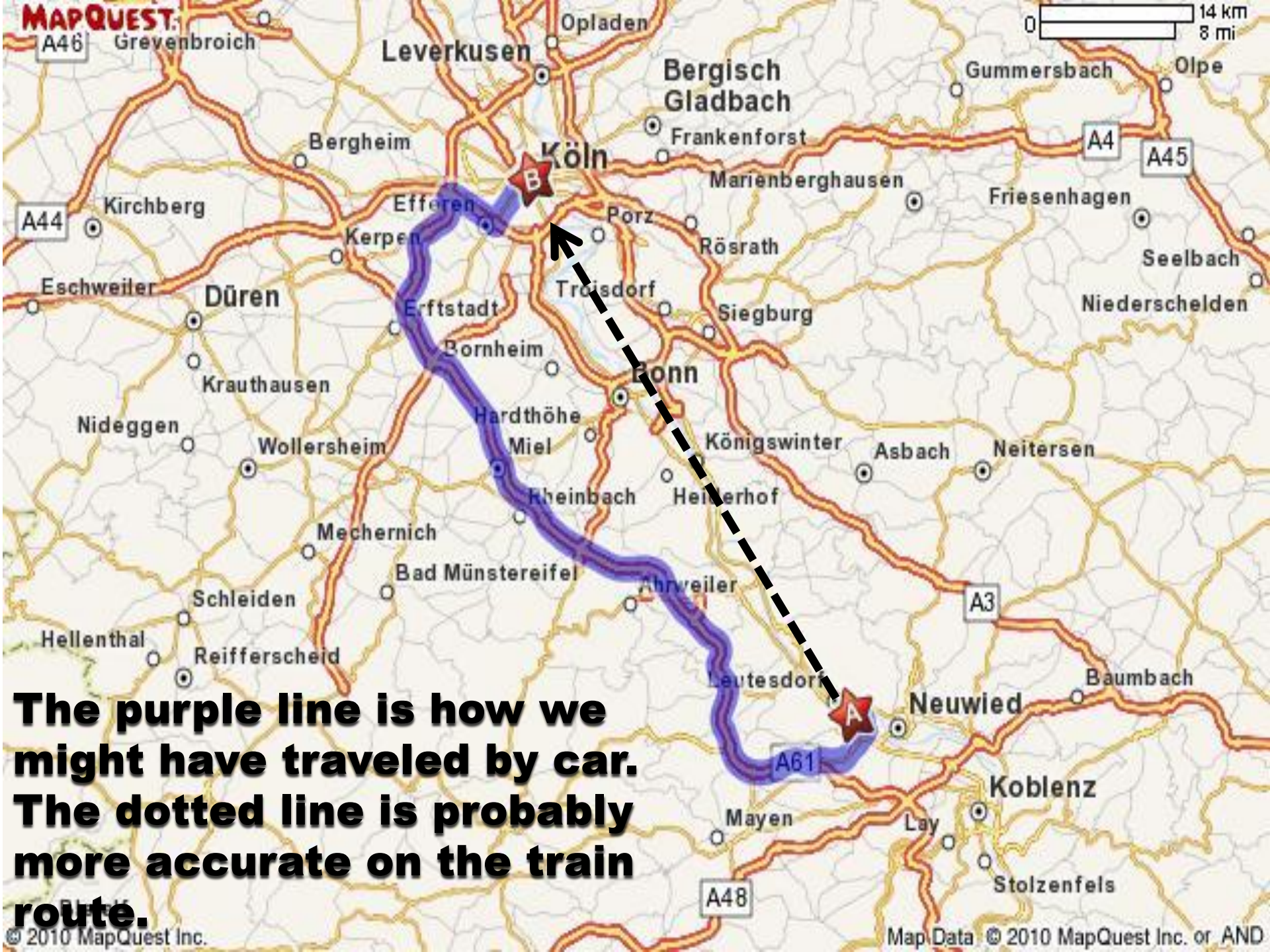
City Eck, mom & pop small bar. 4 p.m. Andernach (Rob nearly walks out without backpack)

Corner liquor store/bar with 1950's American theme, first dark beer 4:25 p.m.

Squeezing one more at the train station before heading to Cologne. 4:49 beer, 5 p.m. train.



Afternoon beer log



The purple line is how we might have traveled by car. The dotted line is probably more accurate on the train route.

**90% of Köln was destroyed in WWII.
The cathedral was only slightly
damaged**



KÖLN 1945





We walked out of the Hauptbahnhof (Domplatz) in Cologne (Köln) around 6 p.m. Little did we know as we rounded the corner that our first sight would be the stunning wall of this huge structure. Construction on this cathedral began in 1248 and continued into the 1800's.



**30 ton organ
suspended in
Cologne
Cathedral with 4
steel rods and
an 8 inch gap
between the
organ and the
building.**



A service was going on in the chapel. Even the smaller chapel organ sounded glorious.

We checked into HOTEL BERG about 6:30 that night. Quite coincidentally Alban Berg - no known relative of this hotel - is Nate's favorite composer. Kind of dragging from the first day, jet lag thing, we set out for food.






We went to *Sion* restaurant but it was packed. A government employee gave us directions to *Malz Mueller*. Couldn't find it so we went somewhere else. After a dinner of turkey medallions and apple strudel, we stopped at another bar for a beer and apfel-korn schnapps before crashing for the night



Nate & Ed shared this room, Rob had single bed. Looks kinda rough in here, guys.



Day #2 - 29 June 2000. A good night sleep did us all good. We went to Hotel Berg's breakfast which consisted of eggs, breads, jellies & jams, cheese, meats, etc. It was Thursday morning and we knew we had to be in Amsterdam Friday night for the concert at the Concertgebouw. Our initial plan was to take the 8:02 train to Brussels, but it required reservations and was full. It dawned on us that... here we were... no specific plans... we could get on any train going to any country... whatever we wanted to do, just so we were back to catch our return flight. A unique sense of freedom. We opted to head on to Amsterdam which required a 1.5 hour layover at Dusseldorf.

Breakfast in Köln.



Nathan found a small bar to go to whilst Ed & Rob looked for a Thomas Cook. This sign was above the entrance to a “Walgreens” kind of place at the train station. It translates: *Price hits*

Preis hits



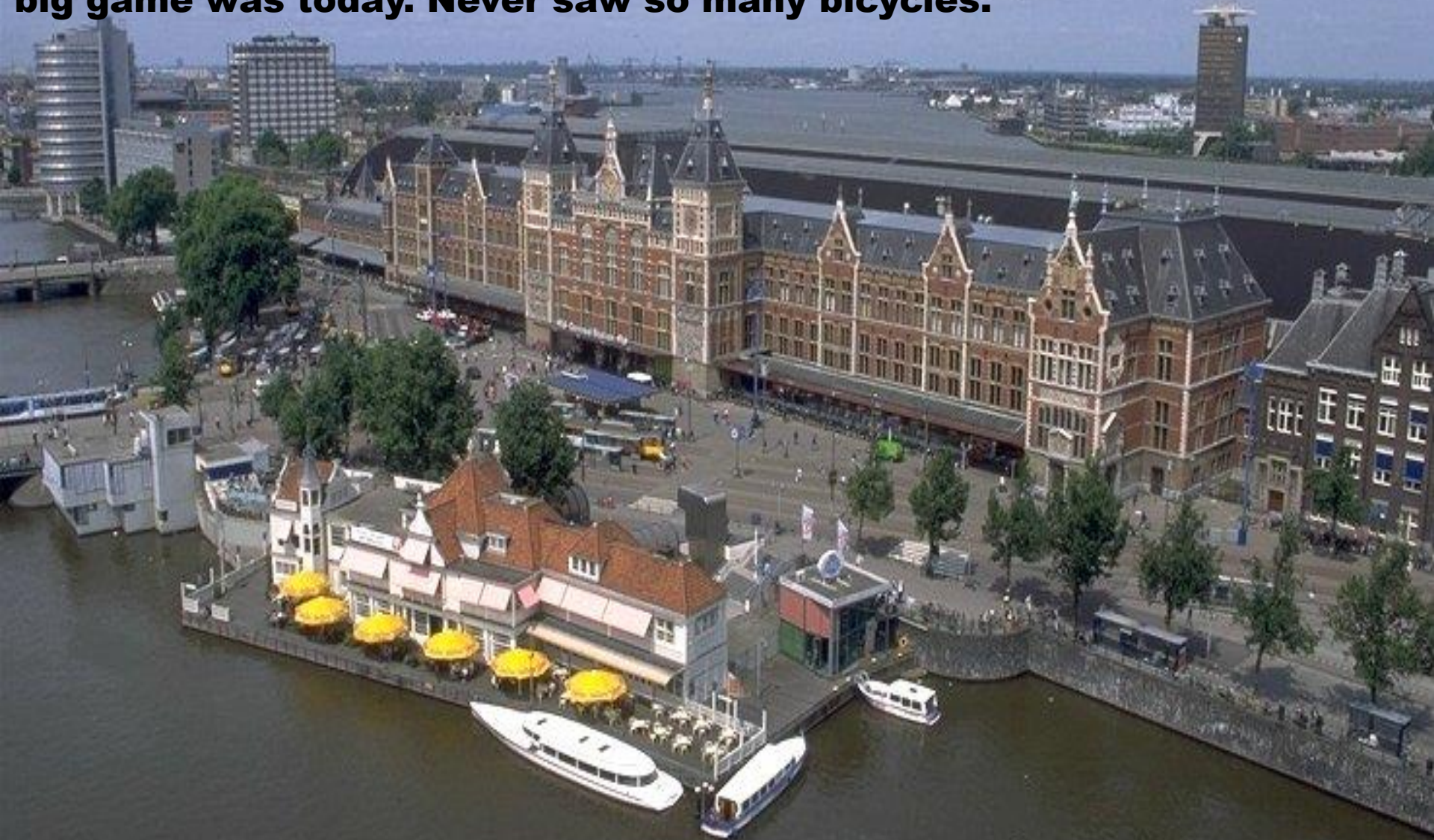
Our 10:38 train from Dusseldorf to Amsterdam was delayed, and once we got on we only got as far as the FLUGHAFEN (airport) when the train “died” right in the middle of the tracks with an electrical problem. We took advantage of our situation with a lunchtime sandwich and a *Brinkhoff Pilsner* from the “concession stand” in the train. By 12:15 we were rolling again. While we sat we discussed many topics, including Ed’s “secret room” story.



Today's train travel from Köln to Amsterdam would be 147 miles. 23 of that was Köln to Dusseldorf.



We arrived at the historic Amsterdam train station middle of the afternoon. It was a complete mad house with people everywhere. If ever there was an opportunity to get pick-pocketed, this was it. We learned that their “football” team (soccer) was in the playoffs and the big game was today. Never saw so many bicycles.



It was a beautiful day and felt good to be in the sun. We swapped some money (the “gulden”) at Thomas Cook pictured here before getting on the train for the suburb of Haarlem 12 miles away.





HOLND
FSTVL

VICTORIA

Hup!

Hup!

Hup!

Hup!

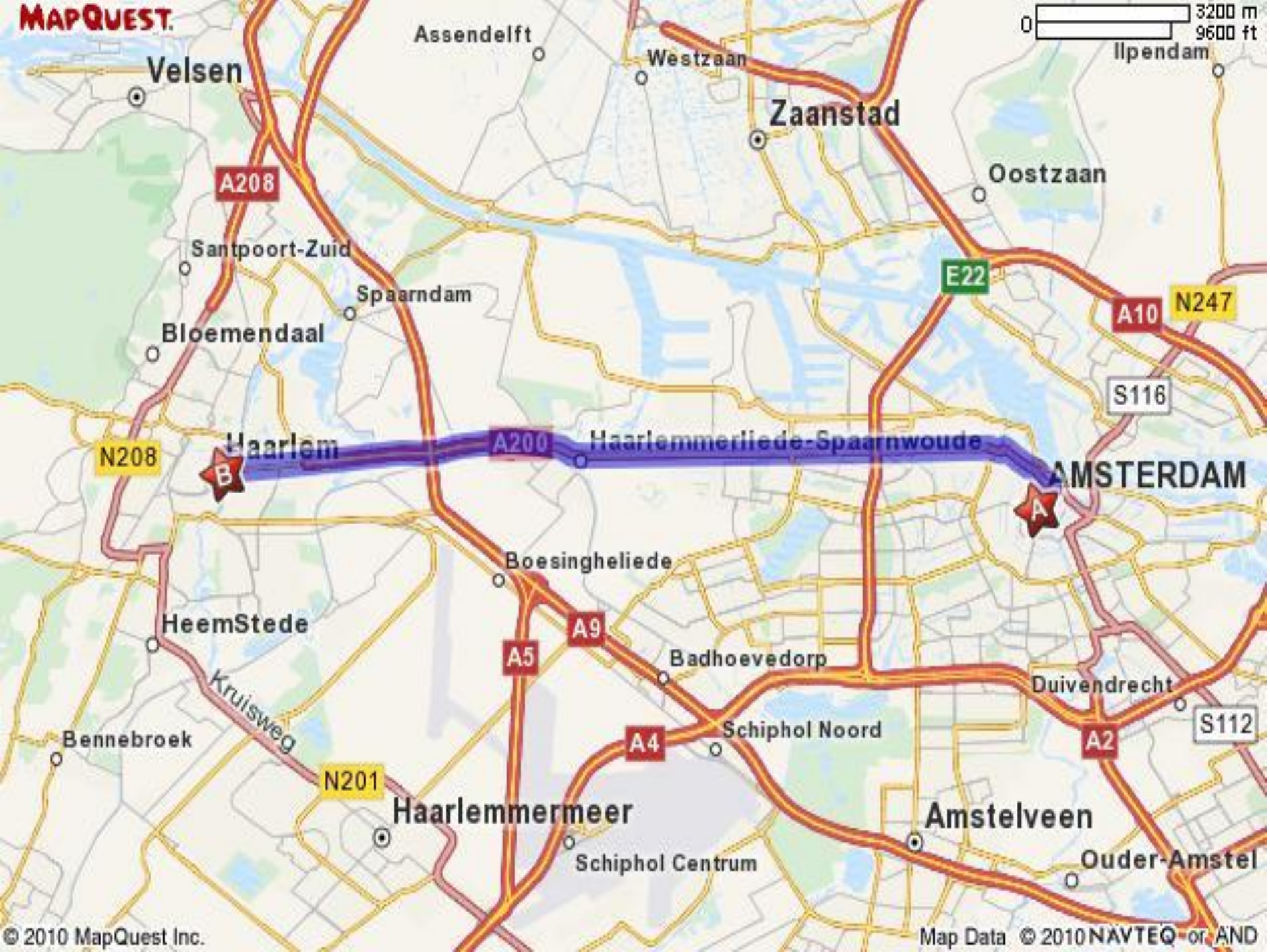
Hup!

Hup!

THE

THE







**Why Haarlem you ask?
Well, Rob plays a pipe organ whose tonal design is modeled after this great instrument seen here in the Cathedral of St. Bavo in Haarlem. So it was kind of a pilgrimage for Rob. This noteworthy instrument - one of the finest in all of Europe - was built by Christian Mueller in 1738 and was played by Mozart when he was 10, and played twice by G.F. Handel.**



It was too late to see the cathedral since we got there about 6 p.m. We found a brochure advertising this hostel, the STAYOKAY hostel in Haarlem... called them, and made the reservation. Then got on a bus that took us within a few blocks of the place.



We checked into our room that looked like this. After that we decided to go to the hostel bar for a beer and pretend we cared about the “big game.”

Where we sat



The fans were
into their
“football”



Shuffle Bee
LA. Trappe 6,-
Draughts TORCHER chouffe 6,-
Heineken AMSTIEL 1870 3,75
*Small 3,- *WIECKSE WITTE
*Medium 3,25 *draught Jopen Hop
*1/2 Litre 6,50 WESTMALLE Jopen WINDM
*Pitcher 16,50 TRAPPE 7,- BEER 5
*Shuffle Booth 22,50 Duvel 6,90 Kriek 4,50
*Longneck 4,50 Corona 6,50 Dekonimk 4,50
*Dwarfshouffe (draught) 6,50 KASSEL BIER 7,- Guinness 6,75
AMSTIEL MALT
Lingen's Blood 3,75
ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE BEERS



The loyal fans loved their beer... as did we who didn't care about the game... as noted from the famous quotes we coined as carefully noted on the back of our beer coasters:

“That’s why we’re 7,000 miles from home (making correct change)”

Quote #2: “Wheat bier, it ruins your tastebuds.”

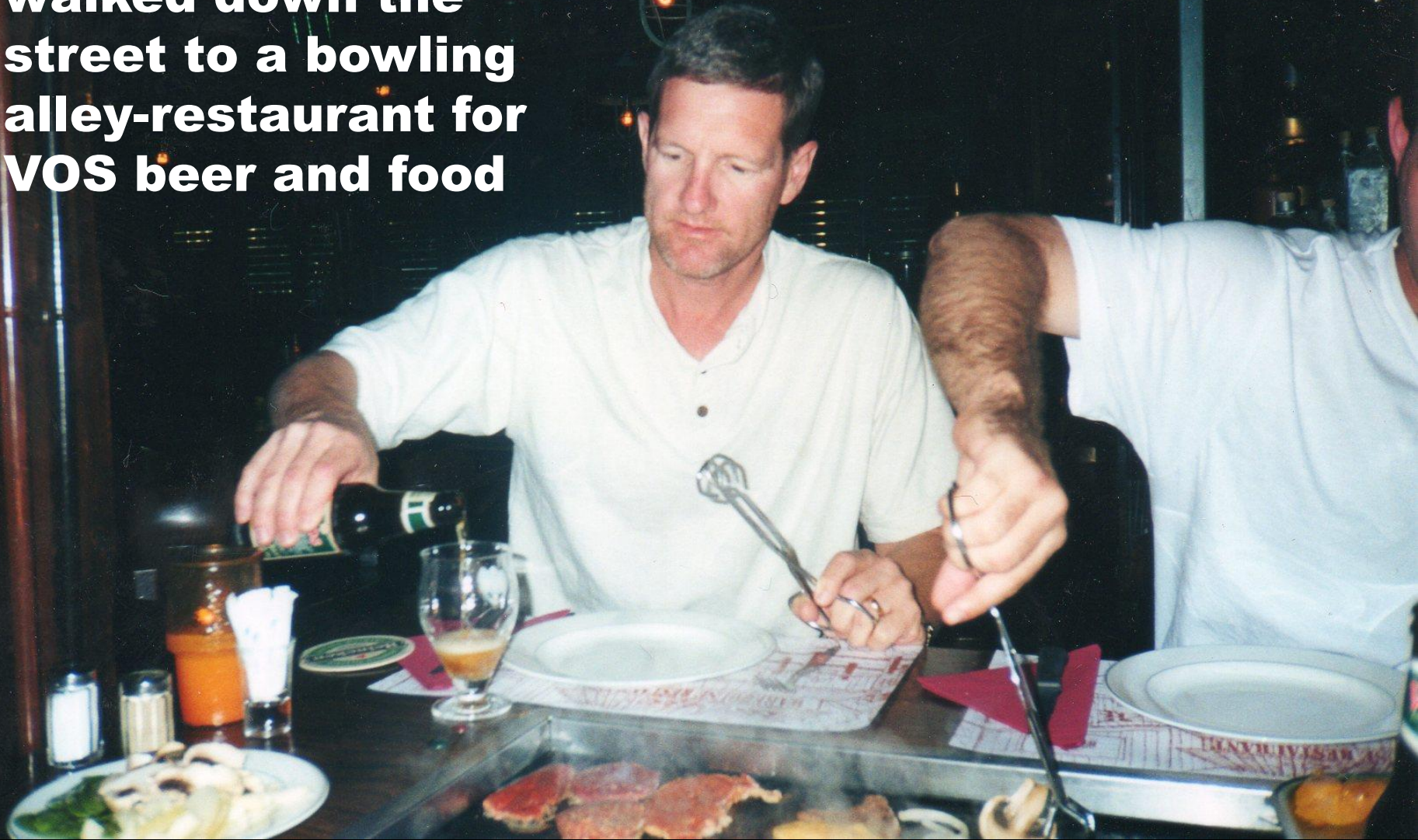
Quote #3: “Elbow brushing is an American custom.”

Jopen is a wheat beer....

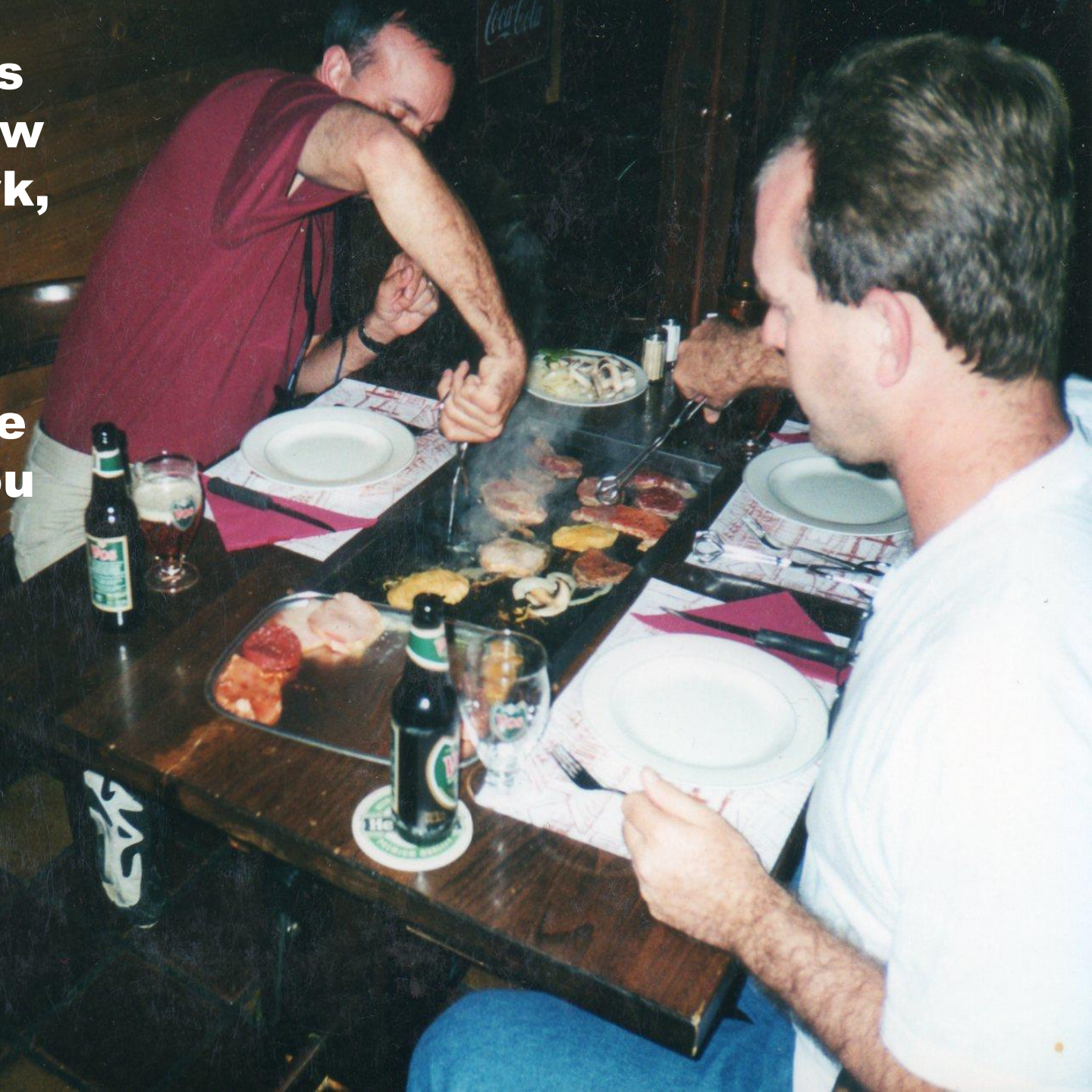
Our second beer was an Amstel Bock...

Blah, blah, blah. Was hilarious then

**For dinner we
walked down the
street to a bowling
alley-restaurant for
VOS beer and food**



**They gave us
a plate of raw
chicken, pork,
and beef.
Each table
had a hot
griddle in the
center so you
could cook
your own.
Different**



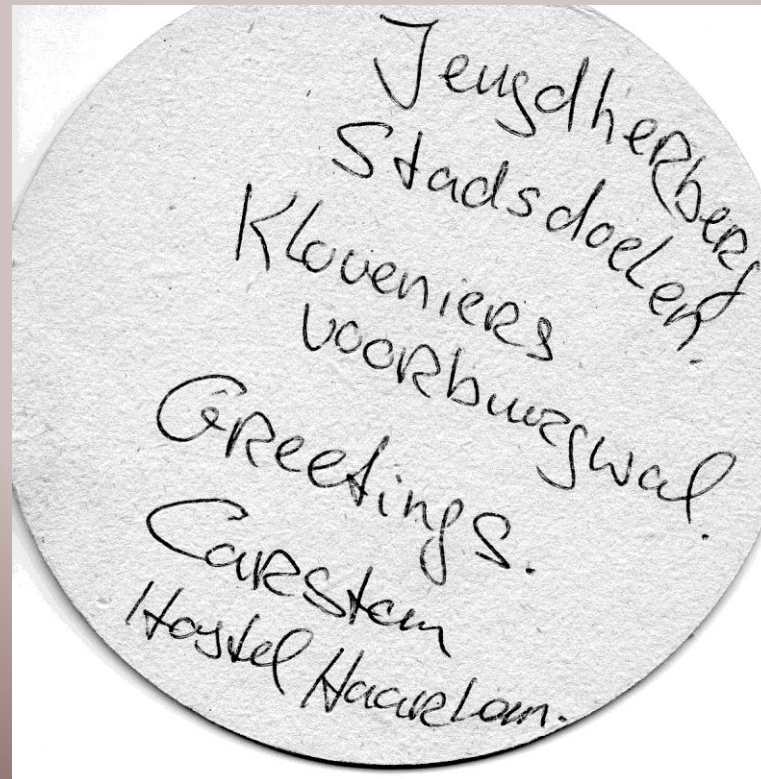
We liked the “Keep your hands off the waitress” sign, so we took our picture in front of it.



All I can recount from the evening festivities is from the beer coasters. By 10:40 pm we had enjoyed Jägermeister and an apple schnapps. 10:55 SAFARI which is a sweet apricot-type liquor. At 11:22 pm we had a *Westmalle Trappist* – a Belgium beer. We saw a t-shirt that said, “Now that the singer is gone, where shall I go for the song.” Robt. Hunter 8/11/95. Shortly after we toasted Art and Garland.

Then the bartender gave the three of us Dutch names around 12:20 am:
Rob = Jan (pronounced Yan); Ed = Kees (case)
Nate = Hans

The bartender played some “Stevie Ray” on his guitar and autographed a beer coaster





Day #3: 30 June 2000 Rob & Nate got up around 7 am and took a walk around the lake behind this place before meeting Ed for breakfast, then catching the bus back into downtown Haarlem.



**Rob had lower bunk,
Nate the upper. Getting
ready to go**



Unfortunately, the church tower was being renovated, so a good picture was impossible because of the scaffolding, but what we went for in the first place was inside. Nate bought a box of Cuban cigars at a place just ahead on the left.

GROTE OF ST. BAVOKERK (NED.HERV.)

Laatgotische kruisbasiliek.
gerestaureerd in 1985. Koor ca. 1400.
schip 1481, transept ca. 1500.
Houten vieringstoren 1520, gerestaureerd
in 1969. Interieur: koorbanken 1512,
koperen koorhek 1514.
Chr. Muller-orgel uit 1738.

ANWB 

With no clue we'd actually make it out to Haarlem, Rob had not made arrangements to play the instrument, but as luck would have it, a master class was going on so we at least got to hear the wonderful sound.





After the 2+ hour visit at St. Bavo, we walked by the home and museum of Corrie Ten Boom





Time for some lunch in the city square. We had tomato basil soup and a cold Dutch beer of some kind. Warm sun, cool air.



Lots of activity here in downtown Haarlem, including a wandering street musician.



Even a wedding going on near our table

**Back in
Amsterdam...**



Well Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore

After getting a hotel in Amsterdam for the night we headed out to hear the concert at the Concertgebouw.





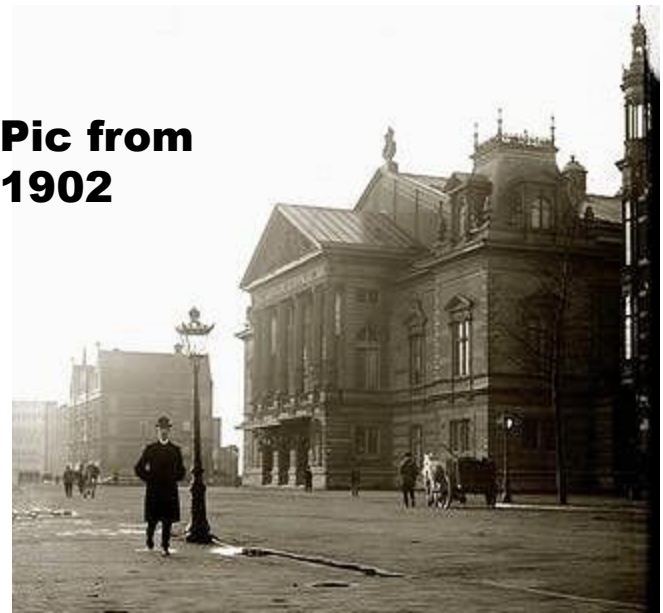
After we located the concertgebouw, we walked down the street to a nearby restaurant for a big salad and another type of VOS beer. Did not find that as tasty as the one(s) in Haarlem last night. Across the street from concertgebouw was this field where a stage was being set up for an outdoor concert. On the left is the Van Gogh museum. (♪♪ ...I could have told you Vincent, this world was never meant for one as beautiful as you... ♪♪) Don McLean



The concertgebouw was built in 1888 but the orchestra wasn't founded until 1895.



Pic from 1902







Can't remember the whole program, but Peer Gynt and Brahms Symphony #1 were among the pieces we heard that night. Was good.

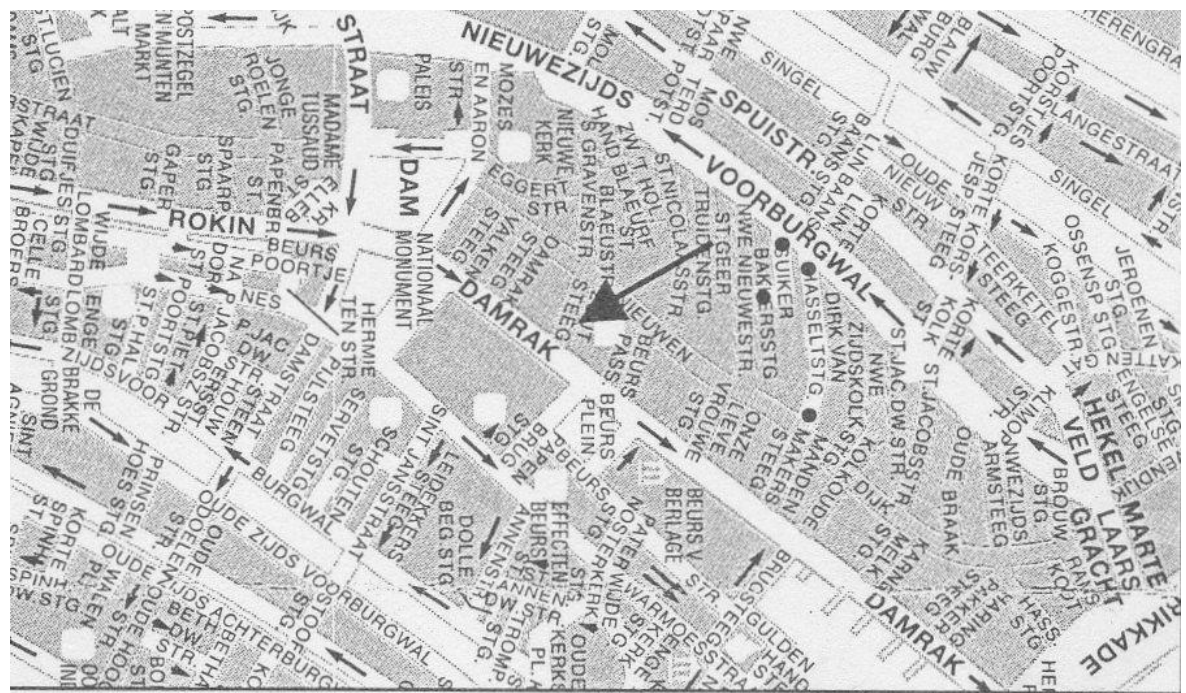


Rob got tapped on the shoulder not once, but twice by the staff people. Photography – especially flash photography verboten.




Rob pretending to give Concertgebouw piano a'wailin

After the concert we went back toward our hotel. Stopped at a bar that included an internet café. Checked email – screen saver had their ‘hash’ menu for your convenience. Then we saw a scantily-clad girl gyrating on a parked motorcycle. That was interesting. Nate went to bed, Rob & Ed went to Amsterdam’s smallest bar – 19 sq. meters called *Beurs Bodega* – business card pictured here front & back. Must be a different place today, couldn’t find this on the internet.



Smaller than Amsterdam



BEURS BODEGA

HARRY EN MARGRIET

Zoutsteeg 7, 1012 LX Amsterdam, Telefoon (020) 623 99 41

A small side note... In an effort to save some money, Rob arranged lodging this night for the 3 of us with a lady named *Lida Dijkema*. Lida's cousin Ann in Houston is a friend of Rob's. We had decided on the way into Amsterdam that we would head out on an early train to Brussels. Knowing Lida lived in the suburbs and that it may take awhile to get to that train, we opted for a hotel near the train station and pass on Lida's invitation. Rob tried calling several times, left messages, sent emails, etc. but could not reach her. We learned from Ann later that Lida was p.o'd about us not showing up. Oh well. Ann was not in the least bit offended. She said Lida is kinda weird any way.



Day #4 – 01 July 2000 Had to get up at 5:15 to catch our 6:25 am train to Brussels. Some of the “working women” were just finishing their “night shifts.” Looked pretty rough.



This 127 mile trip took us under 3 hours. Arrived 9:15 am

Our Belgium visit in the city of Brussels was brief but enjoyable. Not many people moving around yet at 9:15 am Saturday morning. We shopped for some Belgium chocolate for the wives, but they wouldn't ship it for us. Much history here in this town too.





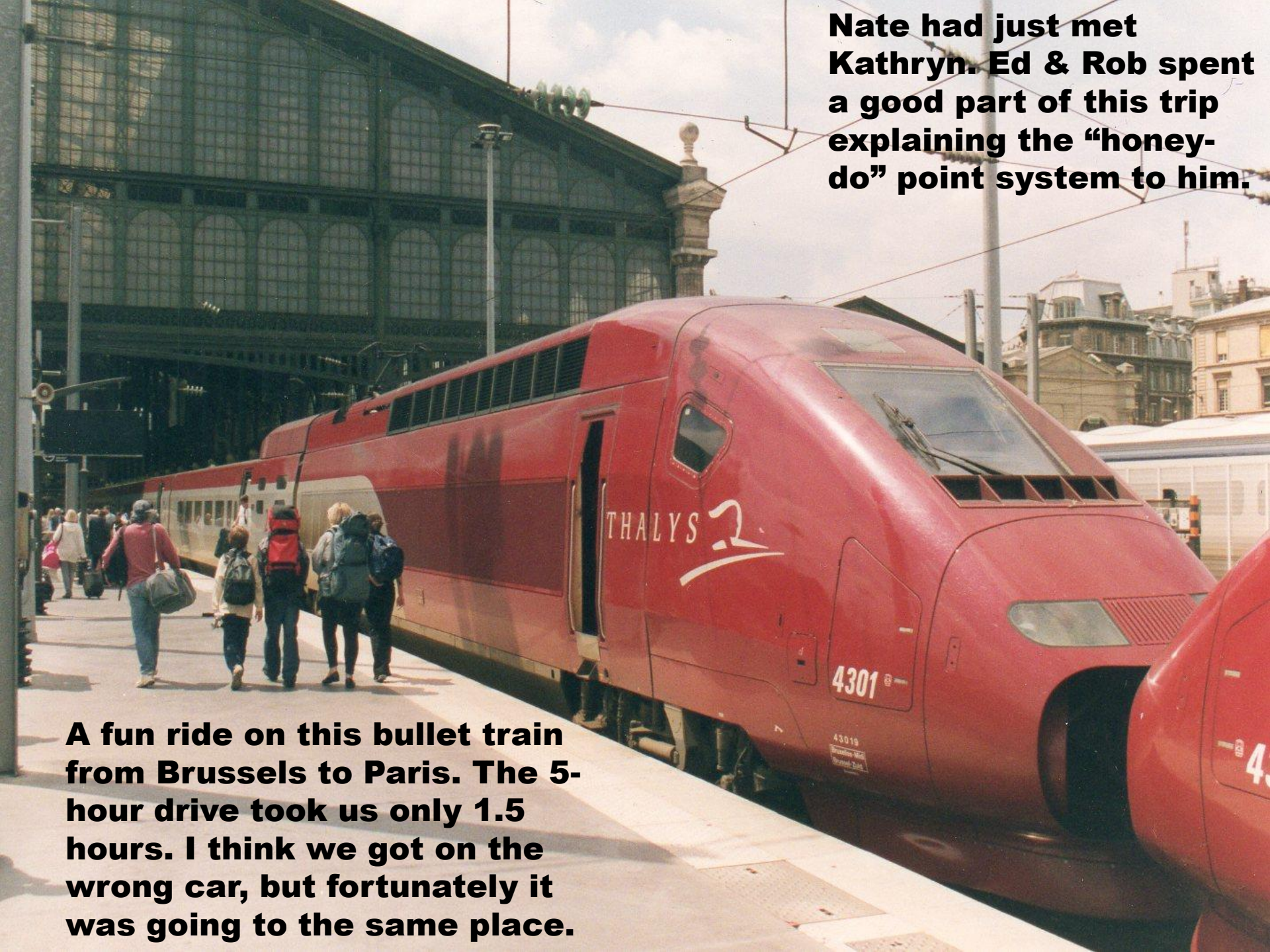
Some kind of potato soup with fish before catching the bullet train to Paris



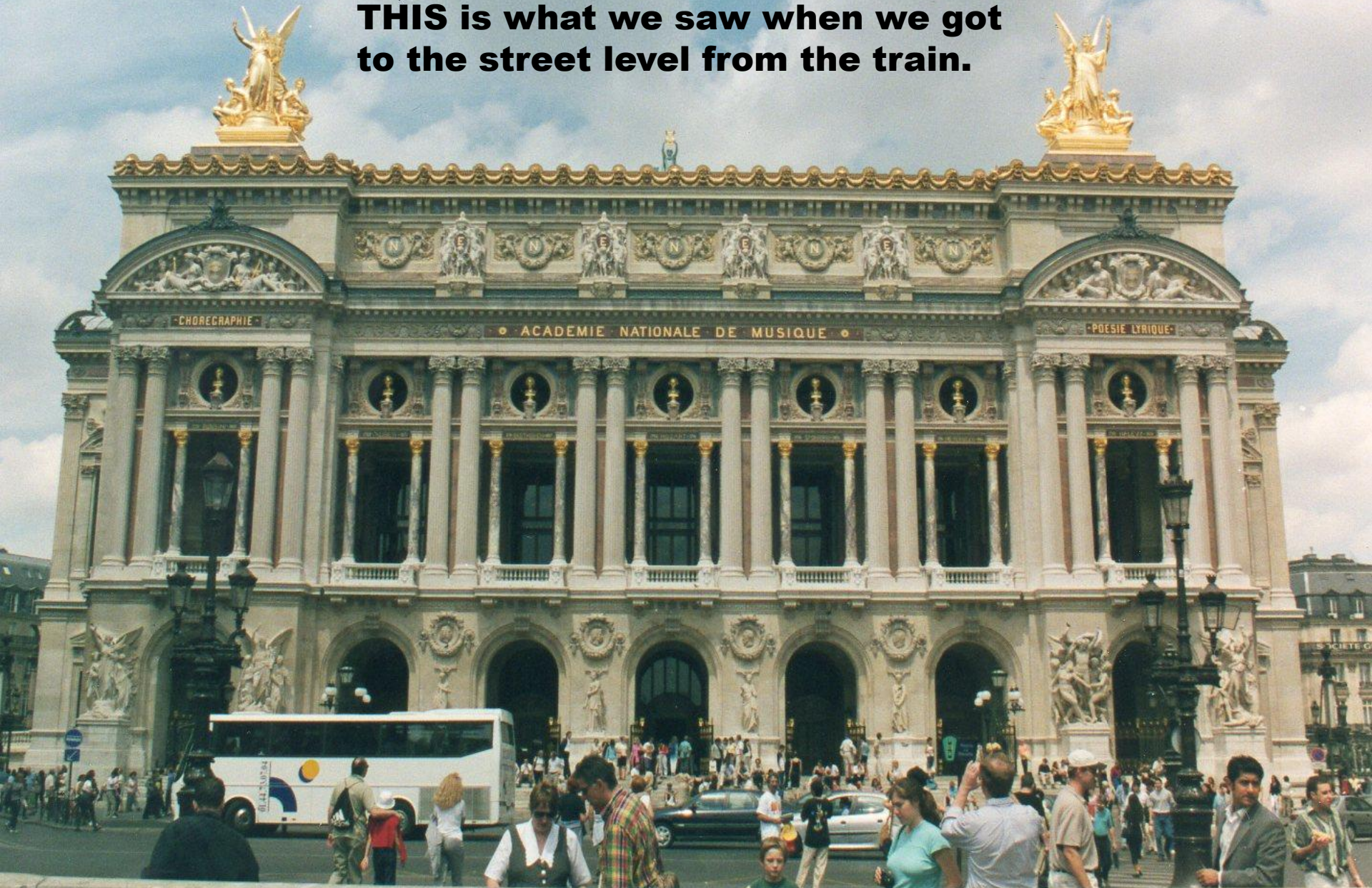
71 km
40 mi

Nate had just met Kathryn. Ed & Rob spent a good part of this trip explaining the “honey-do” point system to him.

A fun ride on this bullet train from Brussels to Paris. The 5-hour drive took us only 1.5 hours. I think we got on the wrong car, but fortunately it was going to the same place.



One of Rob's hopes was that we would see the Paris Opera House. THIS is what we saw when we got to the street level from the train.





This has been used for several movies over the years

Le Palais Garnier

visits / English



Paris metro ticket



After this visit we headed toward Notre Dame. Found a bar where Ed changed clothes. A brief, but heavy rain fell while we were sipping our beer of choice: a 1664. Beer coaster says we drank at 3:35 p.m.

We soon found our way to Notre Dame, approaching from the back side.



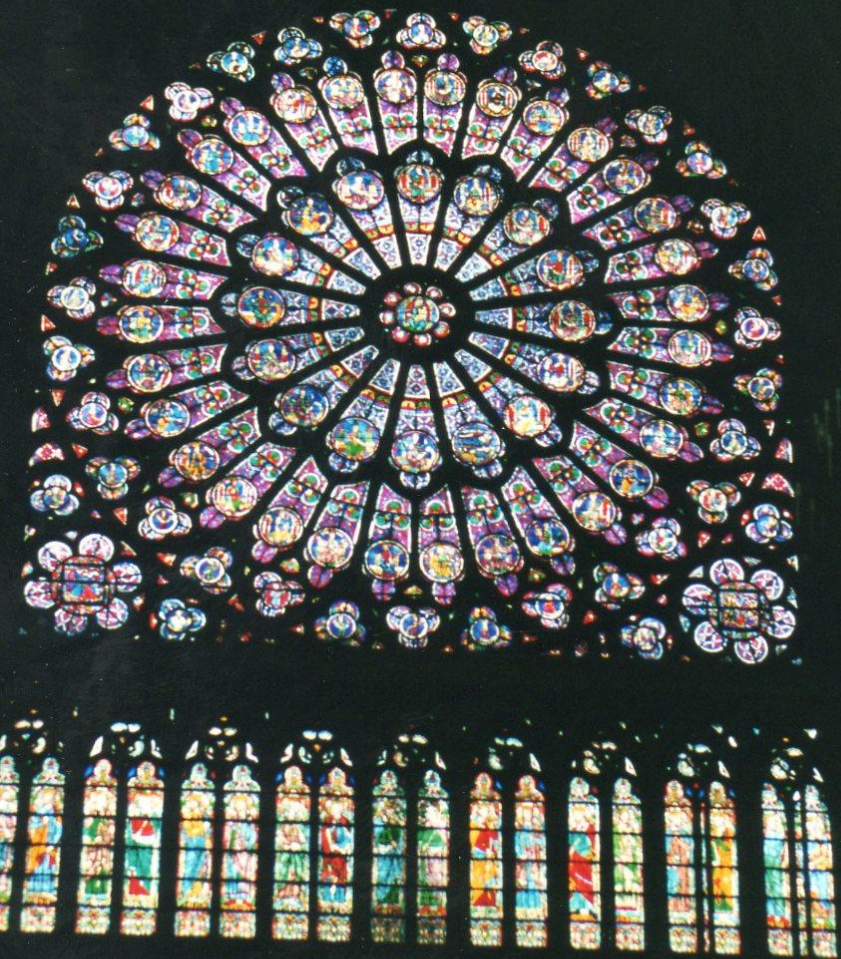
**Ah yes, the
famous
façade,
recently
cleaned too.**





**Three dashingly
good-looking,
unshaven
American men.**

Notre Dame's Rose Window

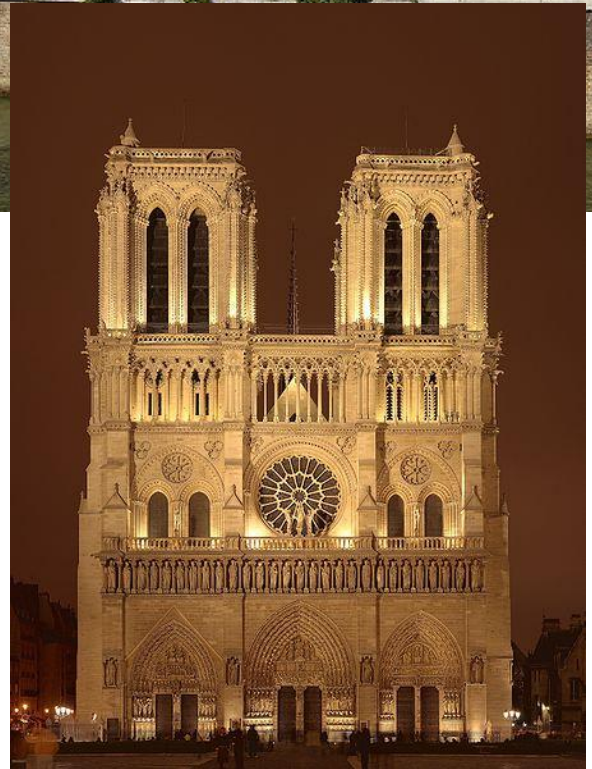
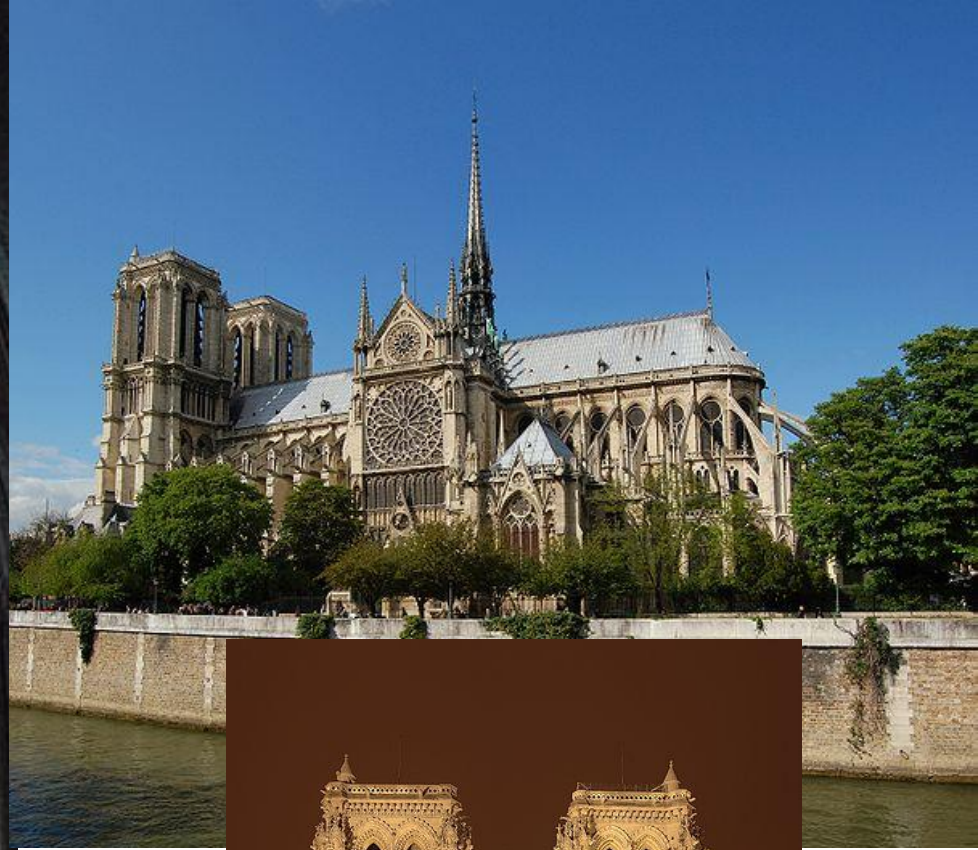


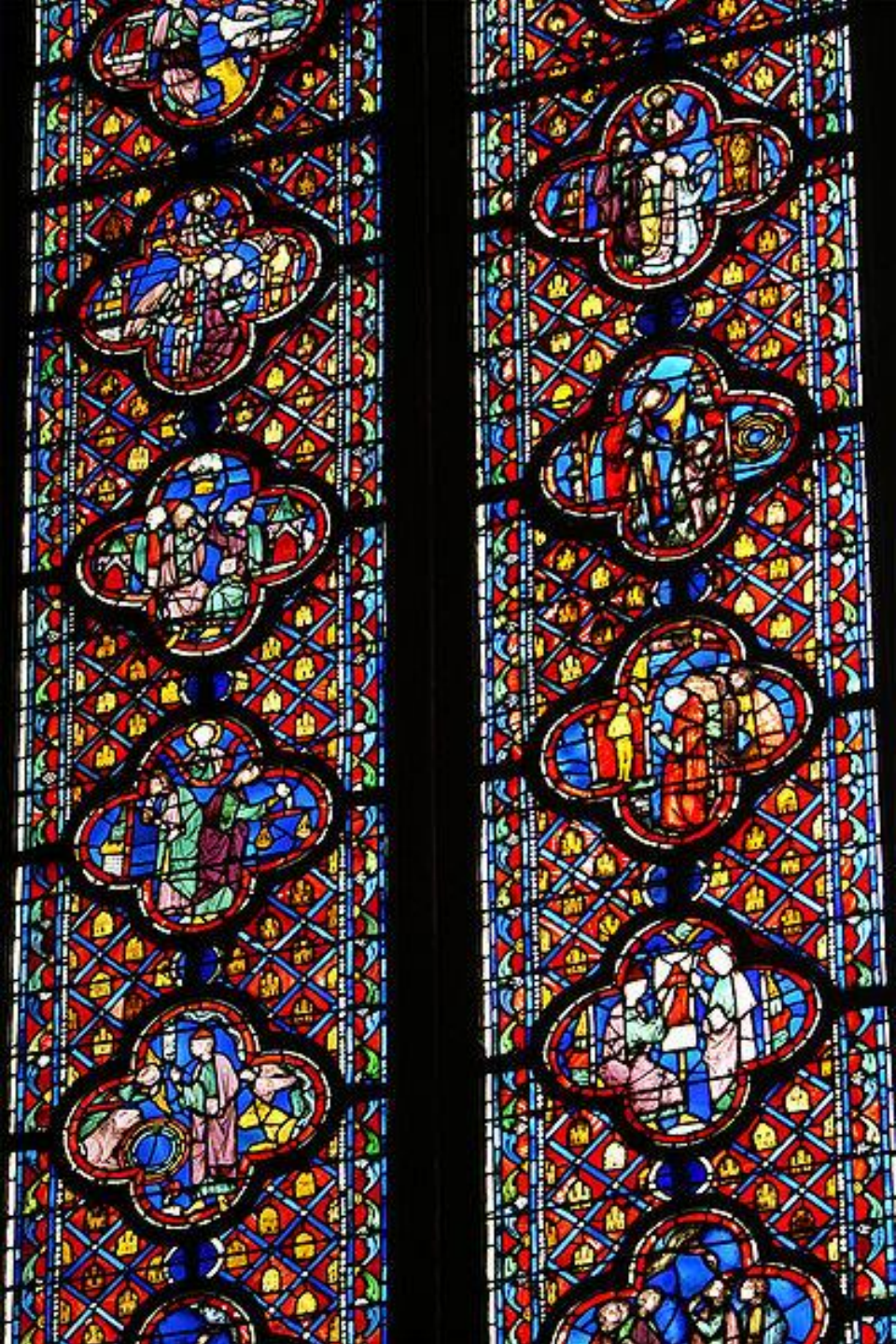
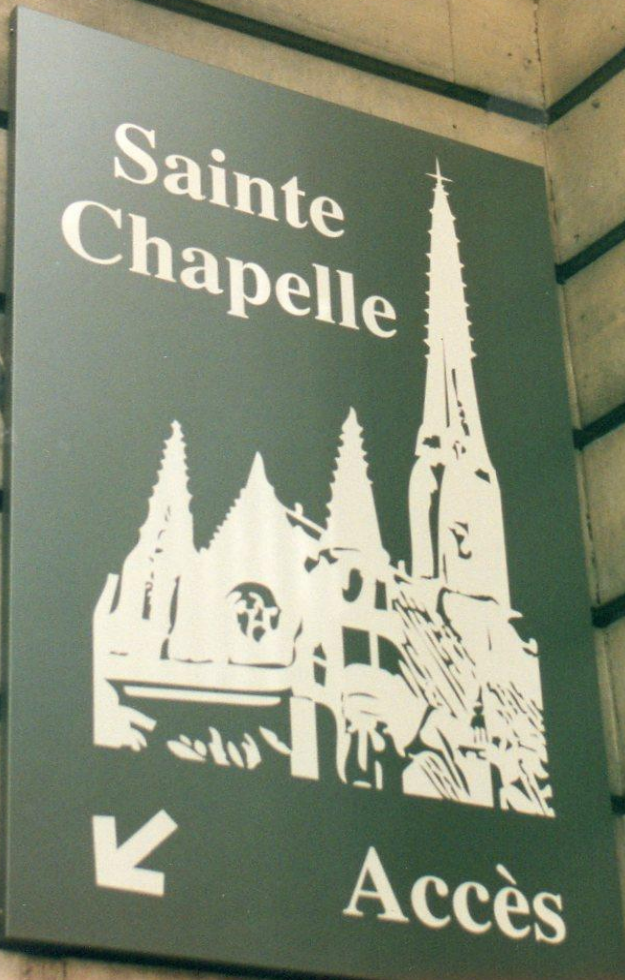


**Interior
panoramic view**

**Construction on
this magnificent
structure began
in 1163**







Our next destination was to see the famous stained glass windows at Sainte Chapelle (The Holy Chapel)

By this time it was getting close to 6 p.m. Quite a long day that began in Amsterdam, through Brussels, and by this time, three major landmarks in Paris. Time to go find our hostel.



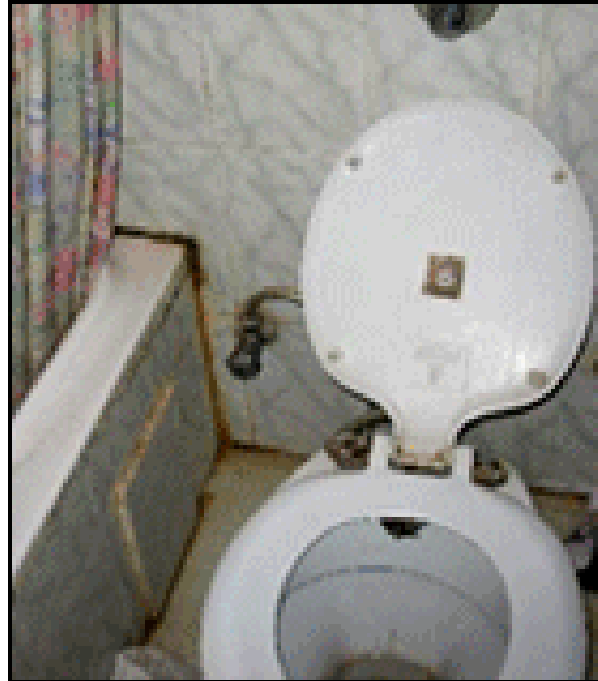


What occurred upon arrival here will certainly live in infamy. The room was small – bunk beds and a single – perfect for the three of us. The bathroom was so small you could nearly shower and sit on the toilet at the same time. As we’re settling in, our door opened and an attractive, young American girl walks in and introduces herself as “Jennifer.” She says she is our roommate tonight. We all looked at each other quite puzzled. No idea it was a coed room. By the door was a winding staircase up to three more beds. Before the evening was over, an American guy and an Asian girl took the remaining beds. Time now to eat and see another famous landmark – the Eiffel Tower.

Brochure photo



Actual traveler photo



2010
DIRTIEST
Hotels

 tripadvisor

GET THE LIST >

The pic on the right could have been our bathroom. It came from a recent review of the *Auberge Internationale Des Jeunes*

**Auberge
Internationale
des Jeunes in
the Bastille
area**



**After
checking in
the room,
we stopped
for pizza at
this
sidewalk
café place**





We arrived about dusk. In his haste, Rob forgot to put film in his camera. The amazing thing about this place, besides this being built in 1889, was the enormity of the legs.

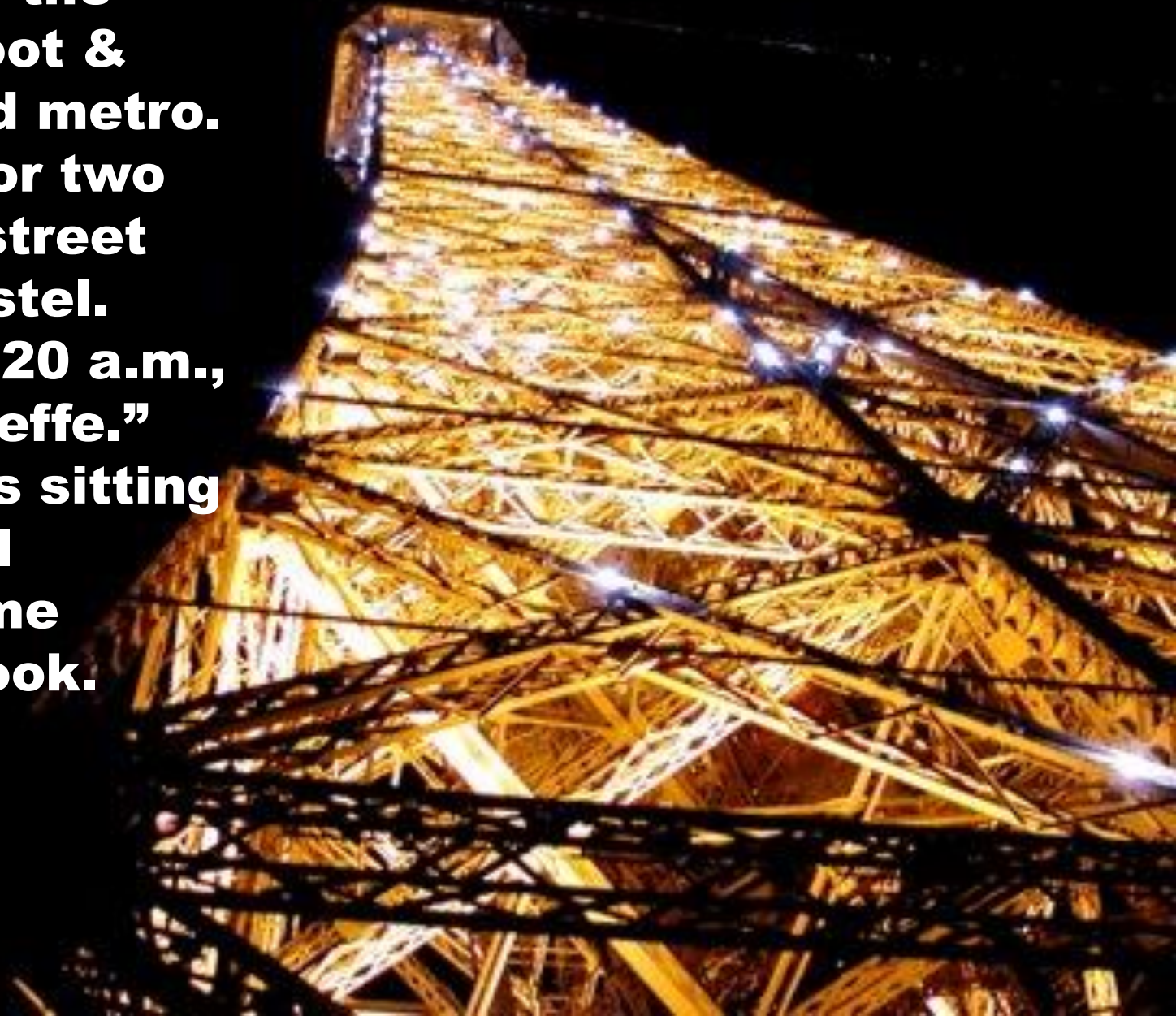
Is this a tourist or what? Nate stayed in bar on first level, Ed & Rob demonstrate their 44 year-old youthfulness by walking the stairs up the first two levels, then elevator to the top.





While this might have been incentive to climb even higher – and illegally.... (No Joan & Mary Kay... this is only a joke)

We navigated our way back to the hostel via foot & underground metro. Had a beer or two across the street from the hostel. Time was 1:20 a.m., beer was “Leffe.” Jennifer was sitting in the hostel window frame reading a book.





Day #5 – 02 July 2000 We started this Sunday morning by checking out of the hostel and hitting this street market for some fresh fruit & croissant for breakfast.

**We stopped here for coffee
and learned you pay more for
it when you sit down to drink
then when you take it to go**





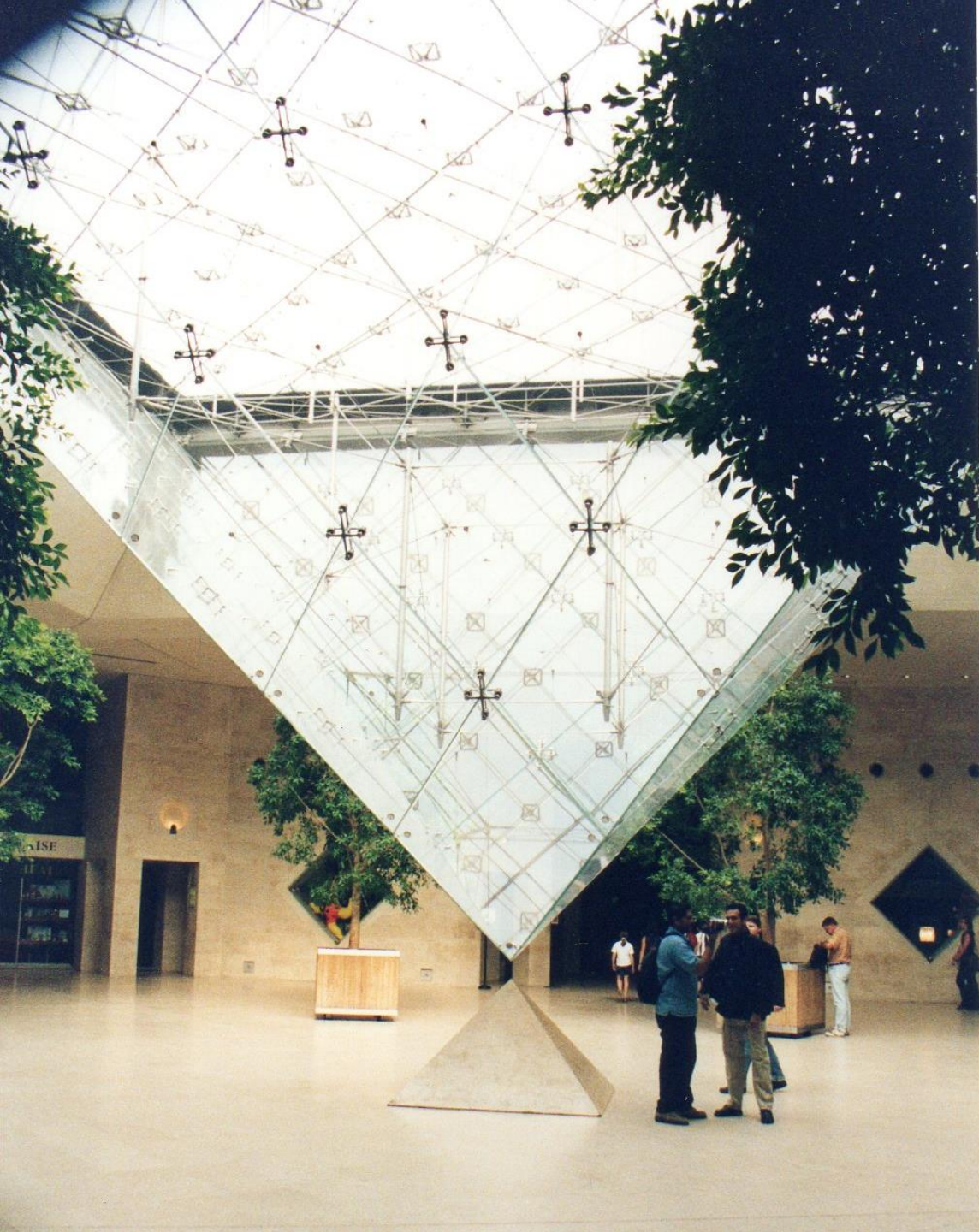
Next stop, the Louvre

RIGHT BANK

LEFT BANK

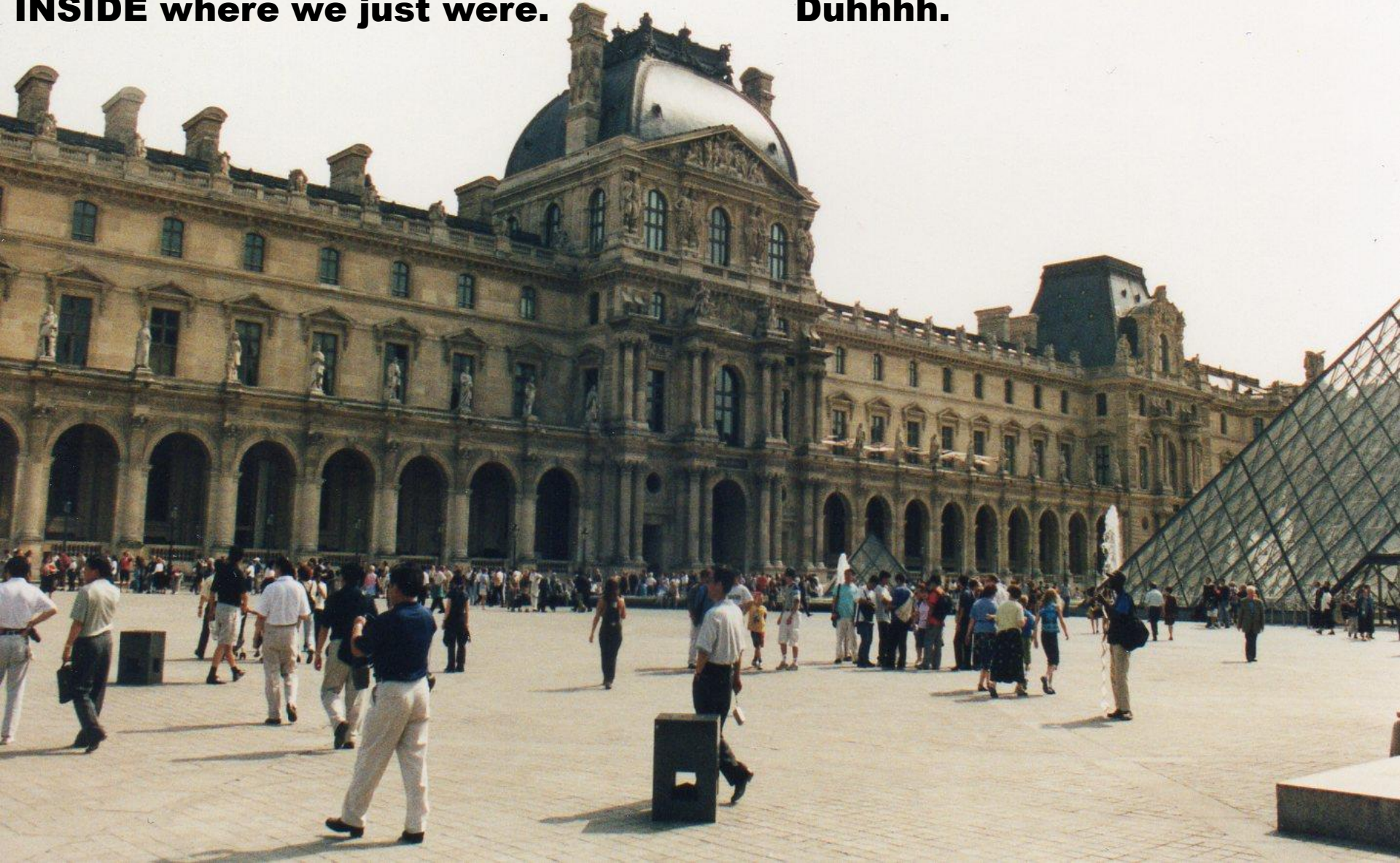


One of many interesting sights in the metro area



Walked down from the underground metro stop to the Louvre entrance pictured here. Found out admission was free today.

Nate wanted to spend a good chunk of time here to soak up as much as possible. Ed & Rob chose the “overview” method of absorbing the Louvre. We took the escalator to the ground level here, then got in the line where people seemed to be going. Turned out to be going back INSIDE where we just were. Duhhhh.





Nice postcard picture of the place at night



Here she is, arguably the most important work in the place. Billed as the most important and iconic painting in the world. Da Vinci's 16th Century Italian Renaissance work, *Mona Lisa*. (30" x 21").

Monalisa after one week in USA



Before

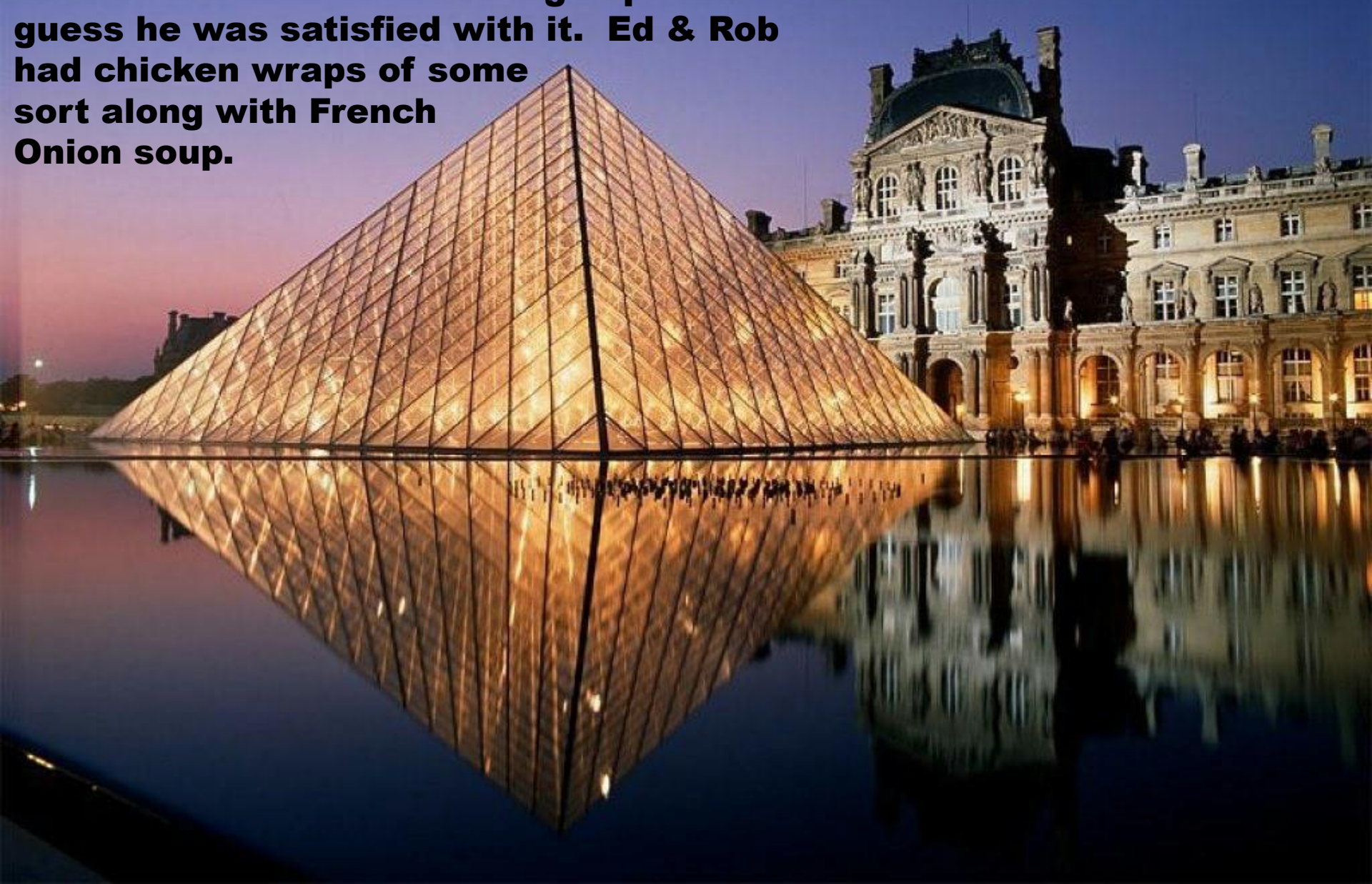


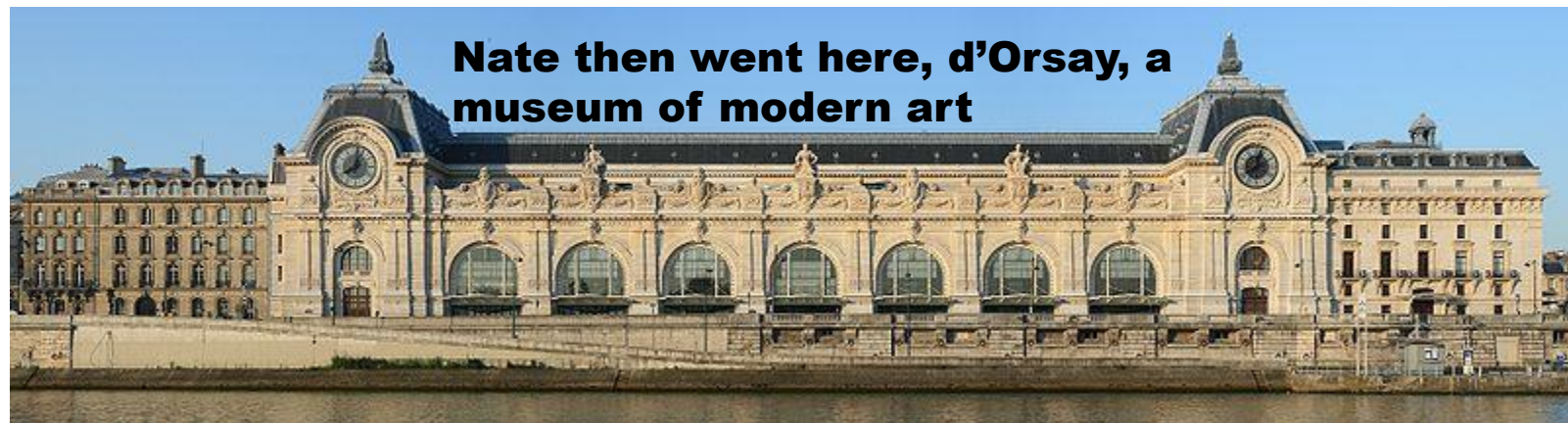
After

There were pieces of art more impressive than Mona Lisa



Another postcard pic. We then met Nate again and went to a place for lunch. Nate wanted his French fine-dining experience. I guess he was satisfied with it. Ed & Rob had chicken wraps of some sort along with French Onion soup.







Ed & Rob struck out on foot again. Making brief stops first at the Abbey of St. Germain des Pres – the oldest church in Paris, then to St. Sulpice to see one of the best organs built by 19th century French builder *Aristide Cavillé-Coll*.





**Outside of St. Germain des
pres. A little rest break,
a.k.a. *une petite coupure
de repos***



Next destination was Arc de triomphe, officially called *Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile* – (arch of triumph). Just a block before we got there, the skies opened up. To our fortune, there happened to be a bar where we could get out of the rain and have a beer: a Kanterbrau at 3:55 p.m. Place had unique French toilets too.





This building stands as a tribute to those who fought in French wars, particularly Napoleonic wars. The *Arc de Triomphe* is so colossal that three weeks after the Paris victory parade in 1919, marking the end of hostilities in World War I, Charles Godefroy flew his Nieuport biplane through it, with the event captured on newsreel. (Thanks Wikipedia)

**We walked the 284 steps toward the top of the arc.
Was rainy, cold, and just plain nasty.**



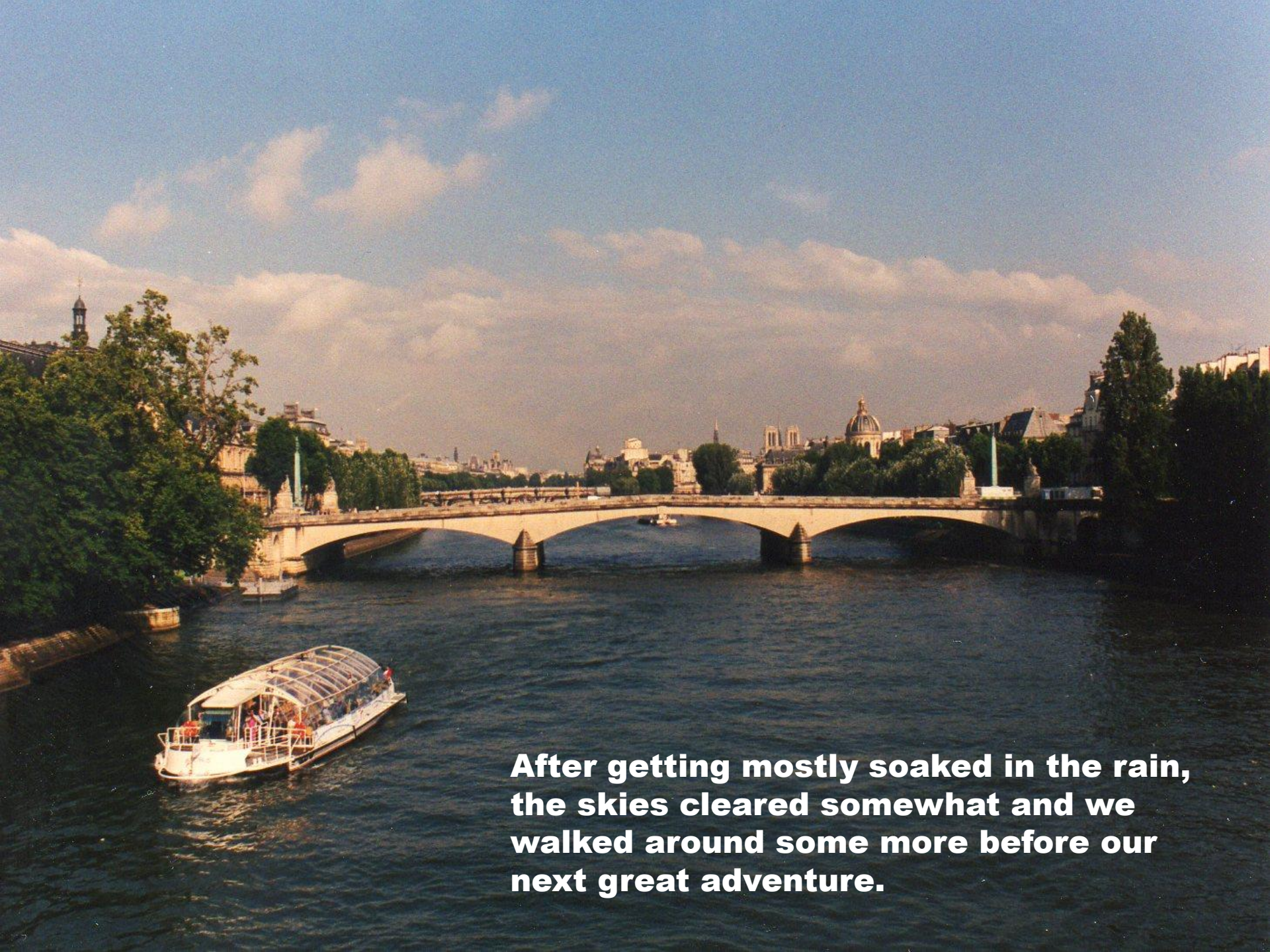




Ed & Rob were suppose to meet Nate at 4 or 4:30 at the place where we had lunch. We were late. When we all met up finally, we enjoyed an Affligem beer at 5:15 pm as pictured on the beer coaster.

**Another
interesting
sight on
the Paris
metro**





After getting mostly soaked in the rain, the skies cleared somewhat and we walked around some more before our next great adventure.

The back of this coaster says “6:56 pm Sunday, July 2, 2000, street-side café.” →



← Around 8:30 we stopped at a sidewalk restaurant to eat and enjoy another “Leffe” beer. One of the more comic events of the trip was the repartee between Ed & Nate on the value (or lack thereof) of John Cage’s 1952 composition of 4’ 33” of composed silence for any solo or combination of instruments. No idea what *Latrizacoise* written at the top means.



After dinner we grabbed some beer-to-go and made our way to the train station. Earlier, we made reservations for the overnight train from Paris to Munich, Germany. All that was left were 2nd class tickets.



Le quotidien qui sort du quotidien.

Récits, grands reportages, voyages, nouvelles inédites de votre maître.

Le Monde de l'été



Le quotidien qui sort du quotidien.

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Le Monde de l'été

Hall where at least ONE scene from a *Bourne* movie would later be filmed



Our accommodations for the night were tight but doable. Good thing it was just the 3 of us in this compartment.



Our 10 pm departure was delayed for some reason. The sleep/ride trip wasn't very restful with 5-6 stops along the way. We were all outta sorts by the time we got to Munich about 9 a.m.





This overnight trip took us 524 miles from Paris to Munich, Germany.

Day 6: 03 July 2000
Once we got off the train at the Munich Hauptbahnhof we got coffee. Then a strange thing happened. Rob was going to take a picture of Ed & Nate, since we all looked pretty grungy. The zoom on the camera totally careened out of control and captured only shirt sleeves of Ed and Nate.



Ed's sleeve



Nate's sleeve





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Here is where we stayed in Munich. Was a 2 or 3 star place. Quite nice compared to other places we stayed. Near the bahnhof & metro too.



The smart car hadn't caught on in America yet

After checking in, we showered to wash off the previous day's grunge. Nate slept while Ed & Rob went to a laundry place close by. After that we stopped briefly at an internet café in the hauptbahnhof.

3rd
Edition

"Indispensable!"
— Travel Holiday

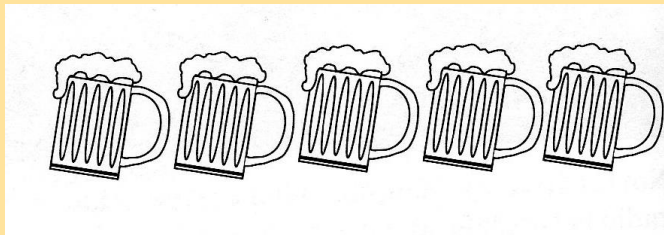
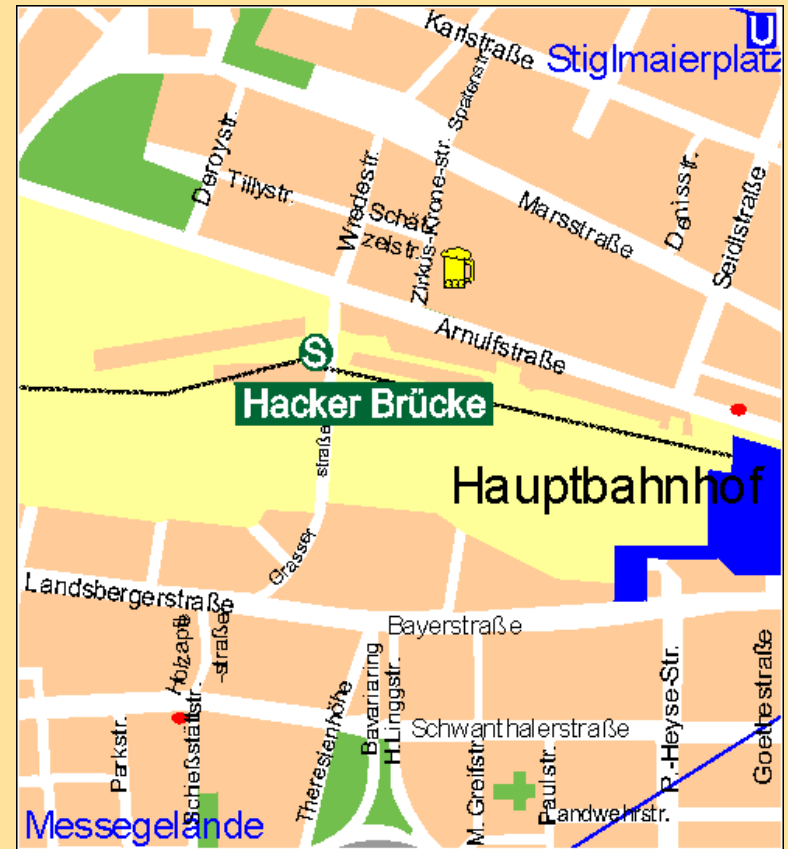
The Beer Drinker's Guide to Munich



Larry Hawthorne

Ed had this book which helped tremendously in finding the best beer establishments. We decided to only visit the places that had a five (5) frothy mug rating. There were more than we could possibly get to in one trip, so we read the reviews and picked a few. As of today, this book is in its 6th edition.





The first place we visited was fantastic, “Augustiner-Keller.” Keller in German means “basement” which we never saw that. The little yellow mug on the map is where this place is located. It boasts seating for 5,000 people.

Augustiner-Keller





We learned that some tables out there are reserved for the locals



Doesn't that Maß of beer just make your mouth water? It was our first of... well... too many that day. 3:44 p.m.

The back of this coaster says "24-36 hours 'good' food smells the same as 'bad' food"



After just a croissant, juice, & coffee after getting off the train, this meal of brats & kraut with pretzel was spectacular.



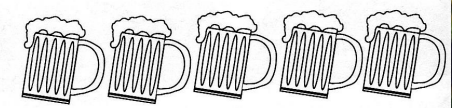
We found another place in the book that looked interesting: Seehaus (translated = Lakehouse). On a lake in Englischer Garten. We had about a 20 minute hike to get to the place. Enroute, it started to rain just as we passed a playground. We took shelter under the equipment and shot mutual pictures of each other.



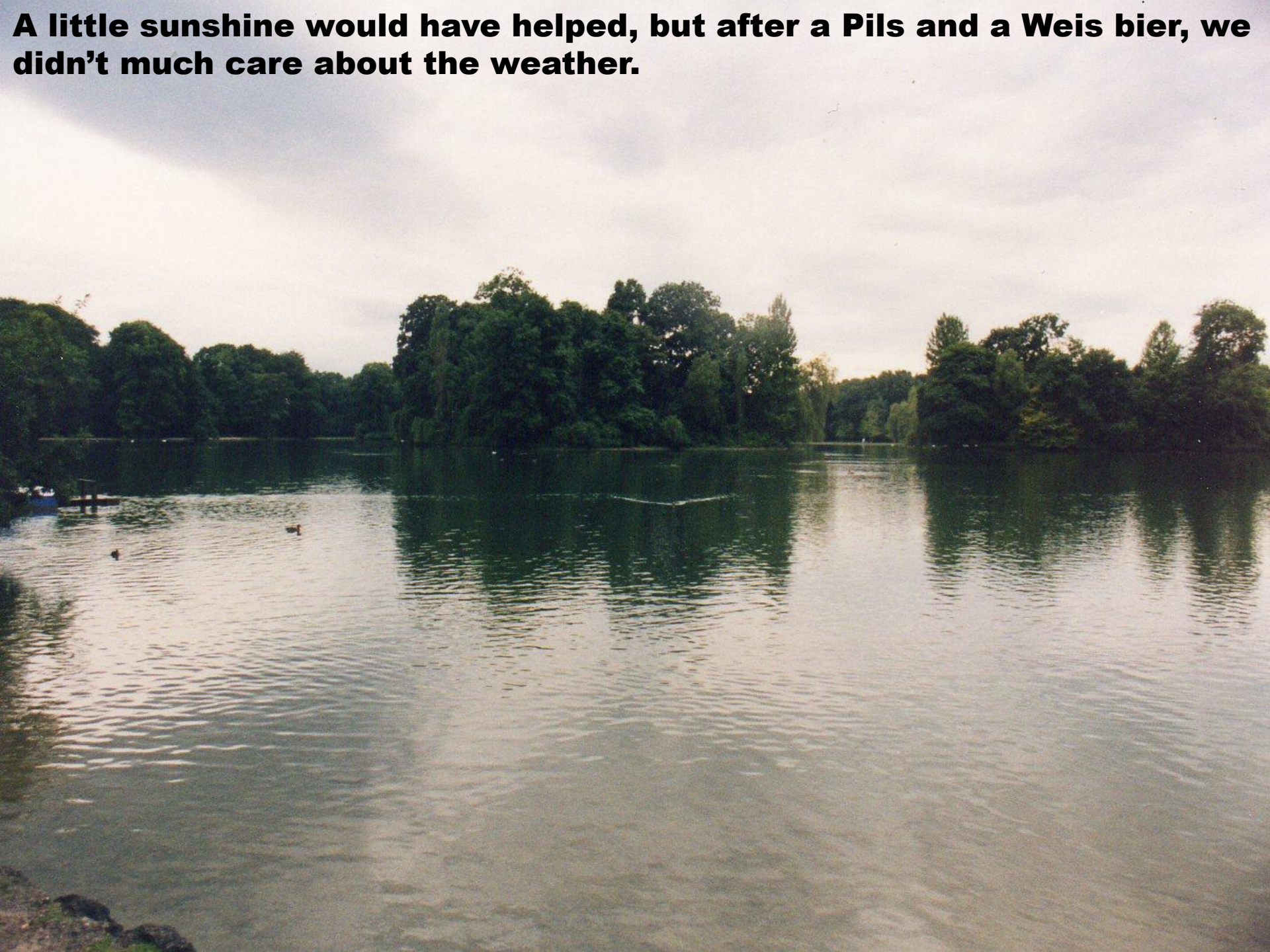
Rob shooting pic of Ed

Ed shooting pic of Rob & Nate





A little sunshine would have helped, but after a Pils and a Weis bier, we didn't much care about the weather.





After these beers we headed back to downtown Munich



We stopped in Marienplatz to see the famous Rathaus-Glockenspiel.





Our next stop was the famous *Hofbrauhaus* which must be “party central” for at least American and other foreign tourists. About 2 minutes from the Glockenspiel.



We had a good time here. First, you sit at picnic-type tables amongst other people where you quickly get acquainted with folks from all over the world. We ate – some kind of sausage wrapped in cabbage. Was excellent! Sehr gut!

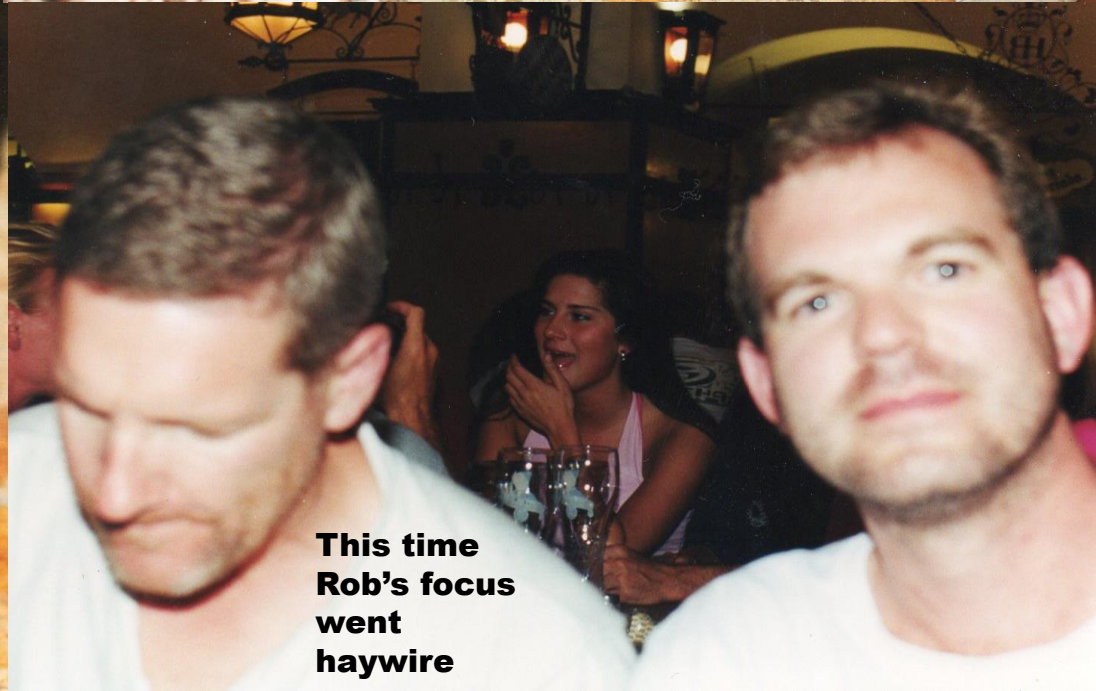




Yup, we each had 4 or 5 of these maß glasses of beer



This guy at our table was Craig Brown from Jacksonville, FL. Looks like he's had a few of these gigantic beers too.



**This time
Rob's focus
went
haywire**

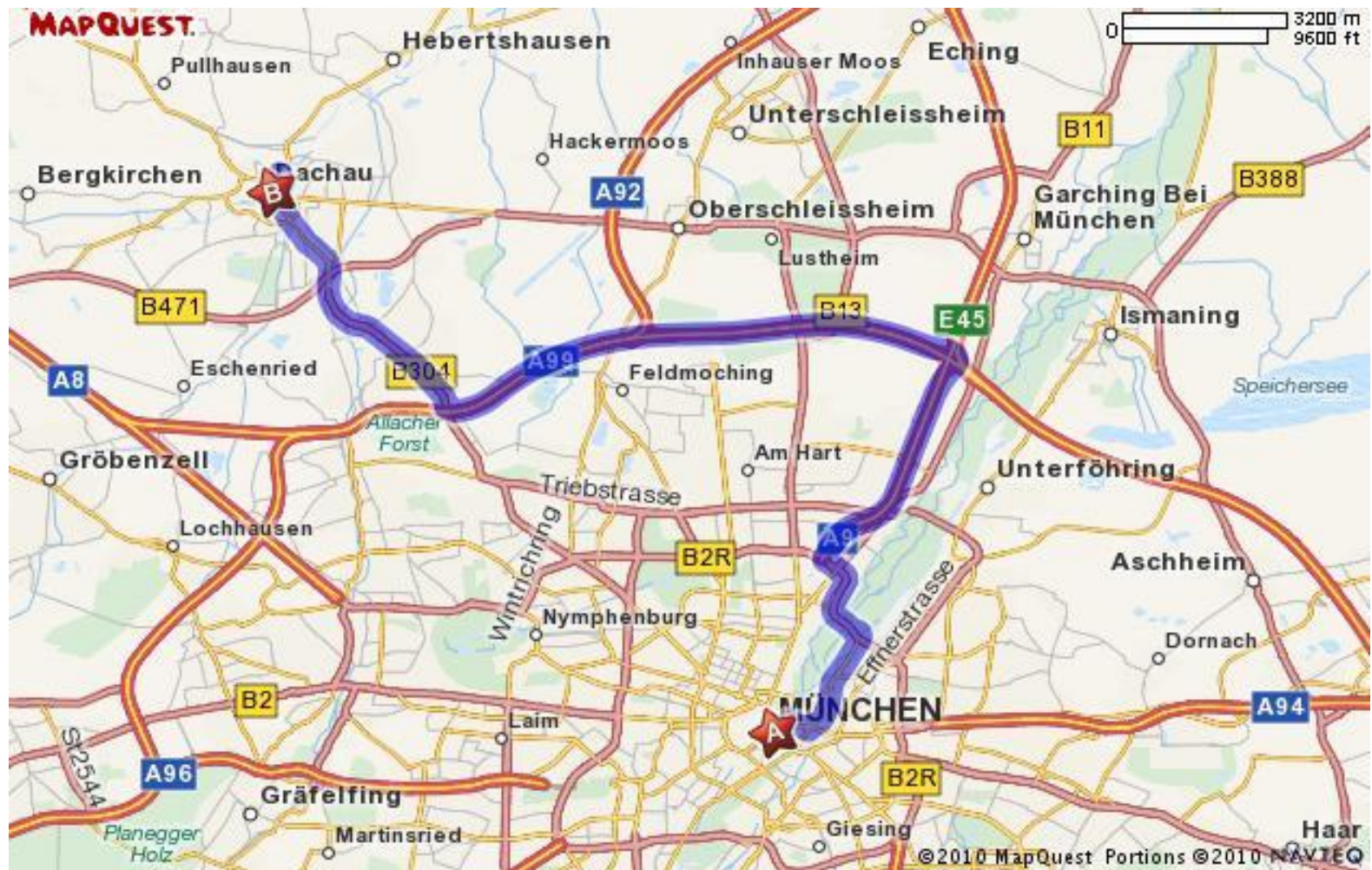
This picture has historical implications. The Australian guy on the far left in the grey shirt taught us how to properly toast when you're drinking with a good friend. "Prosit, prosit, comrade." A toast Ed & Rob have done on every FIRST beer of getting together for beers ever since. And that's been a lot! Many, many....







Enjoyed the company of these two also, he from Rome, she from Ireland. Truly an international evening. We navigated our way back to the hotel. Ed crashed and Nate & Rob went for a night-cap just down the street from the hotel so Nate could smoke one of his Haarlem-acquired Cuban cigars.



Day #7, 04 July 2000 We slept in this morning until after 10 a.m. Then up for juice and croissant before boarding the train for Dachau. Again, this roadmap surely wasn't our train route. Took about a half-hour to the Dachau train station, then by bus to the concentration camp. Got on the wrong bus and had a city tour before correcting.

The day started sunny, and seemed strangely busy for a July 4, but then, this wasn't a holiday here. The cloudy conditions only made the Dachau concentration camp visit more dreary and depressing.





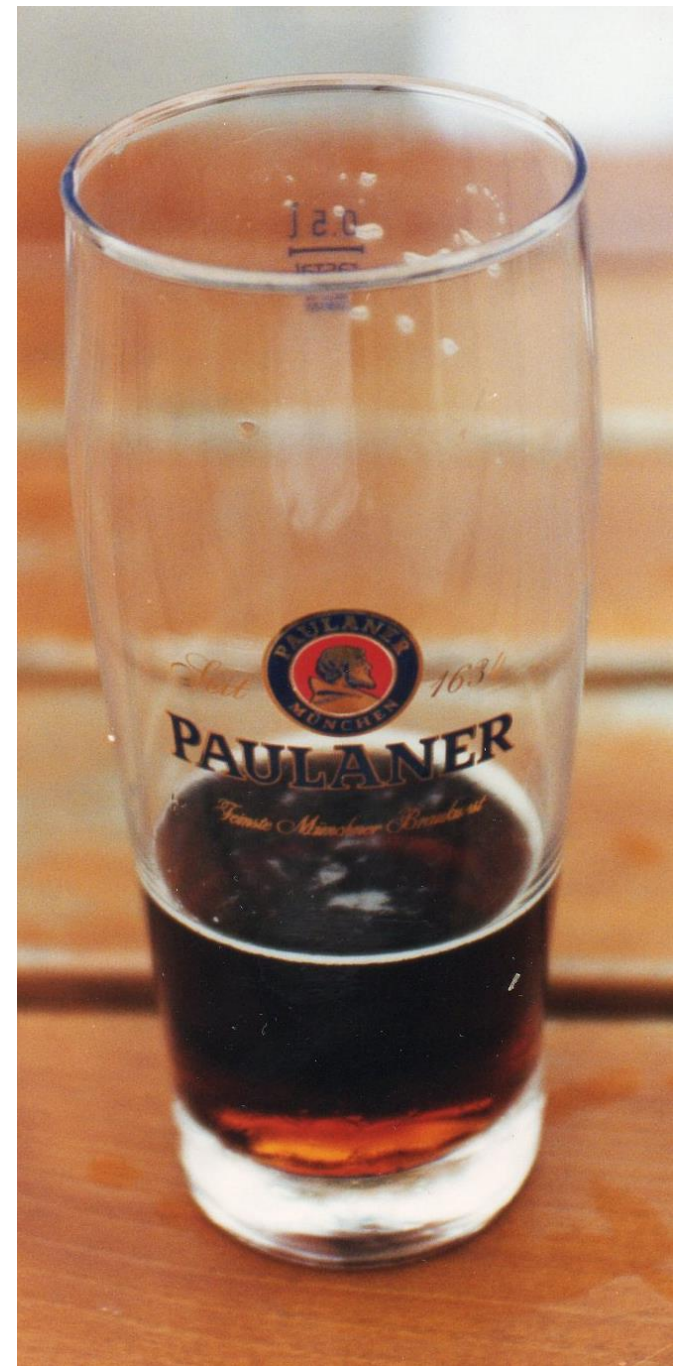
1933-1945

Strange to think this was happening just 11-23 years before we were born rather than some more barbaric time in history.





Got back to Dachau train station for a dunkel (dark) Paulaner and kartoffelsalat (potato salad) at 5:25 pm.





After the train ride back to Munich, we went back to Marienplatz to the *Augustiner Grossgaststätt* almost directly across from the glockenspiel. I believe we all had surhaxe (hamhock), saurkraut, and mashed potatoes. 7:28 p.m. We had a Hellis beer – a lighter beer, then Edelstoff – a strong version of the light beer.



Following the great dinner we strolled leisurely back to the hotel. Ed crashed, Rob & Nate found another bar called “Mozart’s.” A larger lady sitting near us had a gas problem. Nate thought it was Rob and Rob thought it was Nate. This was 10:45 pm. Another quick stop for a schnapp nightcap before bed.

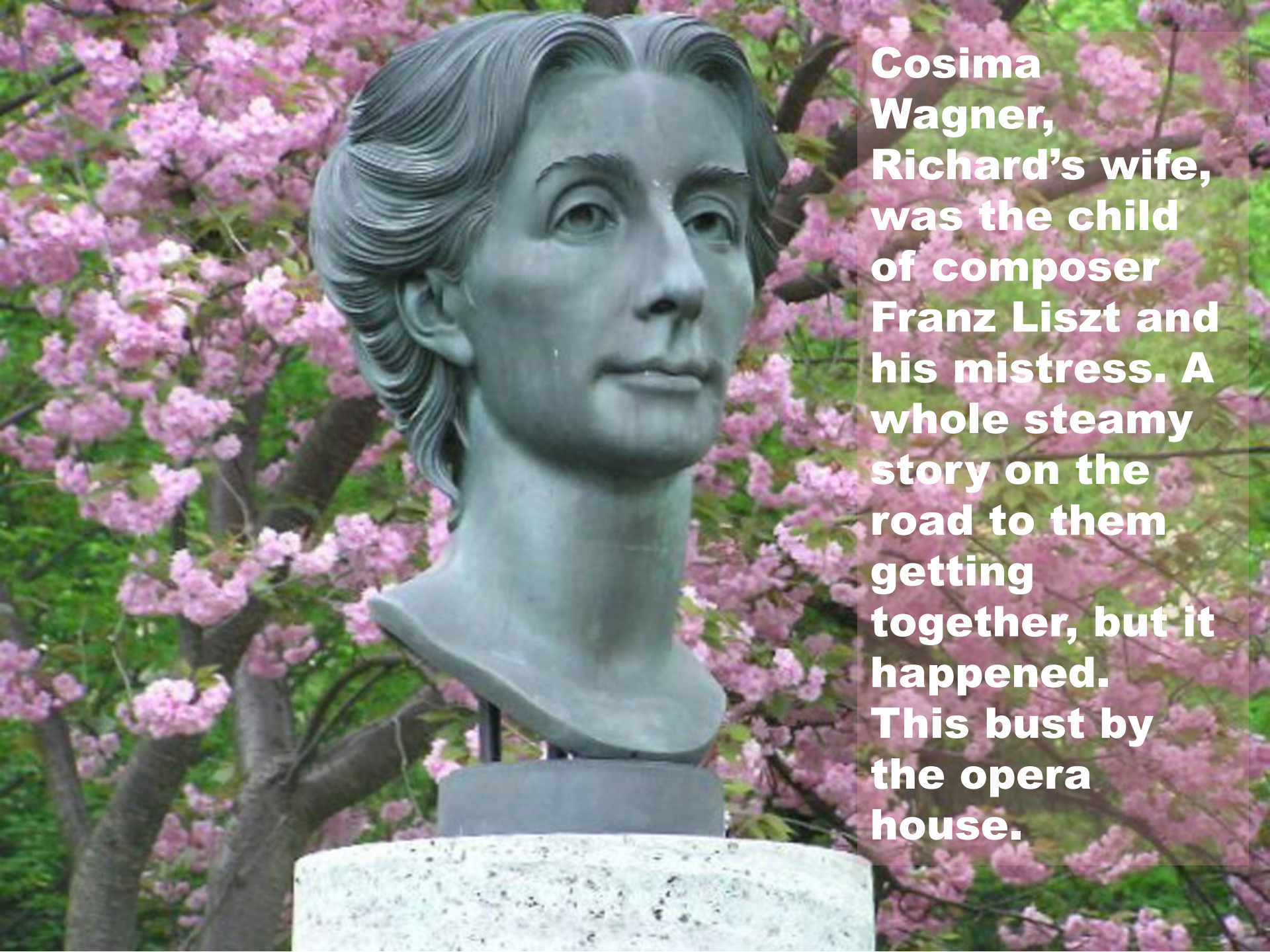




Day #8 – 05 July 2000 Our next destination was to the small town of Bayreuth, Germany, via Nurnberg. Got up 6:45, caught the ICE train and into Nurnberg before 10 a.m. Got to Bayreuth at 11:47 am. Decided to have lunch at a place near the train station. Visited there with a lady in her mid-30s from there who lived in California 10 years before returning to care for aging relatives.

I suppose this was a pilgrimage of sorts for 3 music majors. While Bayreuth has a long and rich history, it is most widely known today as the home of German composer Richard Wagner. Wagner moved here in 1872 to live until his death in 1883. In 1876 he was project overseer of the construction of a large and beautiful opera house with great acoustics called Wagner Festival Theatre (the Festspielhaus) largely funded by Ludwig II. Wagner the wanted the perfect place to showcase his *Parsifal* and “*Ring*” *Cycle* that have been performed here every summer since 1951.





Cosima Wagner, Richard's wife, was the child of composer Franz Liszt and his mistress. A whole steamy story on the road to them getting together, but it happened. This bust by the opera house.

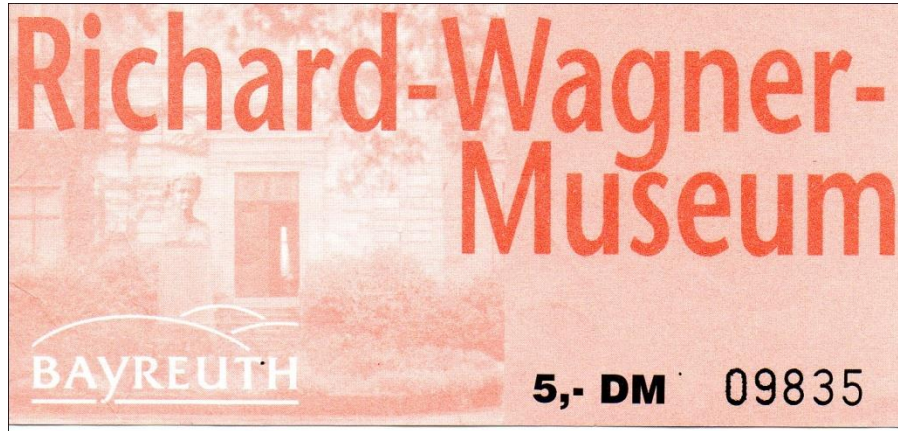




This pic by the opera house pretty much sums up all of Bayreuth in the summer: large trees and colorful flowers.

After paying homage at the opera house we took pictures and headed back to the other end of town where we toured the Wagner residence.





**Tickets we
purchased for
the museums**





Wahnfried was the name given by Richard Wagner to his villa. The name is a German compound of *Wahn* (delusion, madness) and *Fried(e)*, (peace, freedom). The front of the house shows Wagner's motto "Hier wo mein Wähnen Frieden fand – Wahnfried – sei dieses Haus von mir benannt." ("*Here where my delusions have found peace, let this place be named Wahnfried.*")



**Performance room at
Wahnfried.**



**Grave of Richard &
Cosima behind Wagner
home.**



Just next door is the house where Franz Liszt was at the time of his death in 1886. It's now a Liszt museum with his piano et. al.

Following the Wagner & Liszt visits, we grabbed a beer in the downtown area at an establishment started in 1860. We are sure Wagner & Liszt spent many-an-hour here drinking many-a-beer.





The main street in Bayreuth

Our next train departed a little after 5 pm, so we grabbed a beer and kartoffelsalat at the Bayreuth bahnhof at 4:55 pm. Our flight back leaves around 10:30 am tomorrow, so we better start making our way toward Frankfurt. We had to get to another train in Nurnberg. Our seats were close enough to the “cockpit” that we could see the speedometer: 175 kph. That translates to 108 mph. They move along.

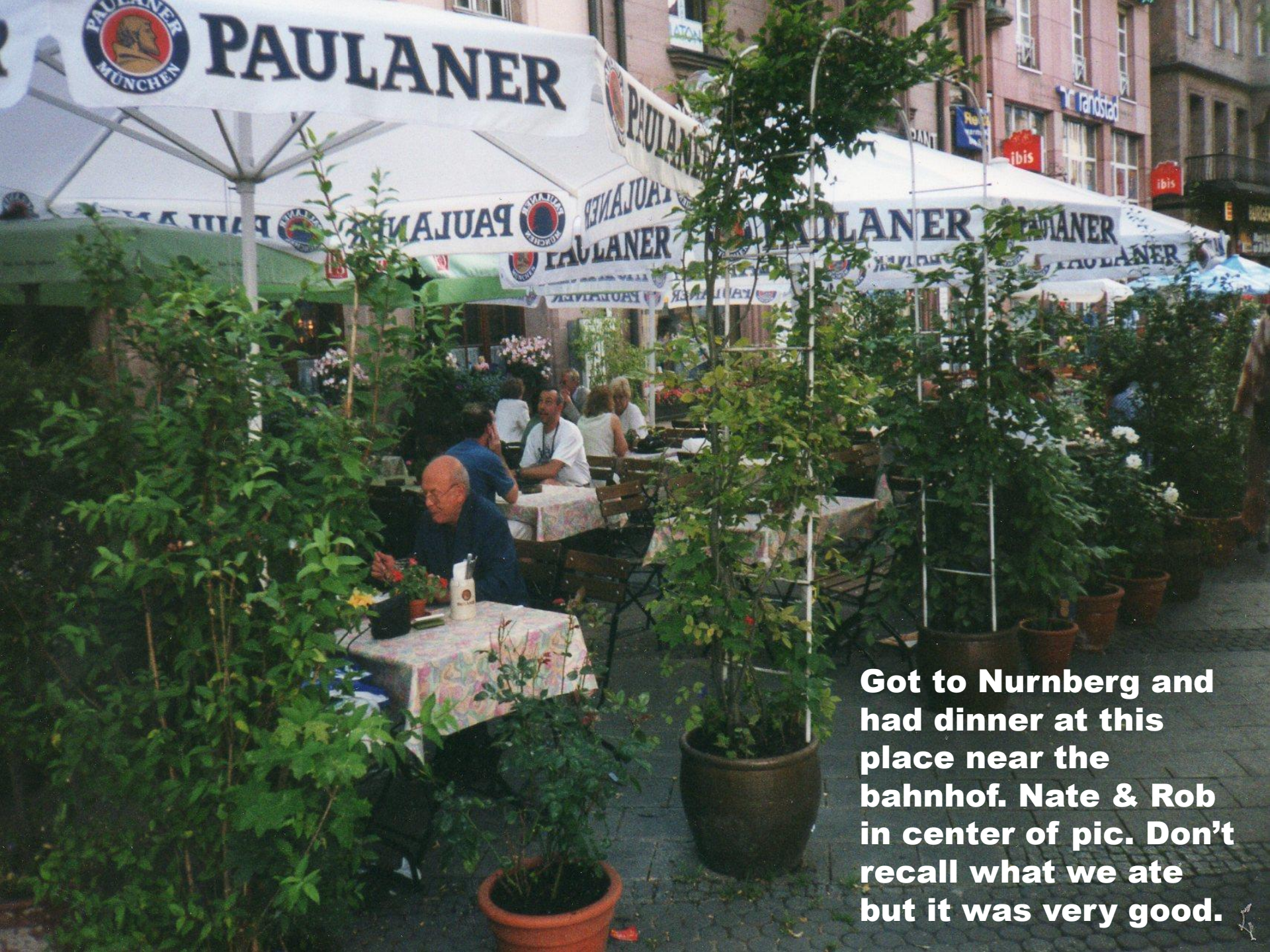




54 miles by car

This pic pretty much sums up our train travel on this trip, and that of trips to come.





Got to Nurnberg and had dinner at this place near the bahnhof. Nate & Rob in center of pic. Don't recall what we ate but it was very good.



Photo op while waiting on next train



We figured it would be easier getting lodging outside of Frankfurt, so we stopped at Aschaffenburg just east of Frankfurt. Only about 30 minute train ride from there to Frankfurt airport.

We found adequate lodging in Aschaffenburg but the lady at the desk appeared to be drunk. Was kinda funny. We went to a nearby bar for a beer followed by a nightcap of some sort. We were all pretty quiet as I recall. Kind of a bittersweet time: Ready to go back home, yet sad our adventure was drawing to a close.



We had vowed on this trip not to shave – just because the women who cared weren't with us. Nate got up and decided he wasn't going to meet Kathryn at the airport looking like he did, so he succumbed to the razor. Once Nate finished, Rob followed suit. On Rob's way out of the bathroom, Ed held his hand out for Rob's razor and declared, "peer pressure." So we all returned showered and clean-shaven.



Not too picturesque at the Aschaffenburg train station. Just trying to soak up a last minute memory or two.



Got back to the airport in time for our 10:35 a.m. flight which I believe was delayed for some reason.





First time I ever got to experience the GPS system on a plane

I like Germany



Edison
EDISON

Yes, I'd say we liked Germany. France, Belgium, and the Netherlands too. Nate married Kathryn later that year – in spite of our explanation of the “honey-do” point system.

The End

***Now for the
“rest of the
story...”***

The 2000's brought several other "mancations" to other exotic destinations both foreign and domestic. Spring break 2002 – Egypt Mills, MO, visiting Rob's parents and grandma pictured here. Plaid must have been "in" then. Rob caught a cold on this trip, Ed – poison ivy.





THE MULE JUMP East Perry County Fair in Altenburg, MO, about 25 miles from Rob's hometown of Cape Girardeau, MO. September 2002.



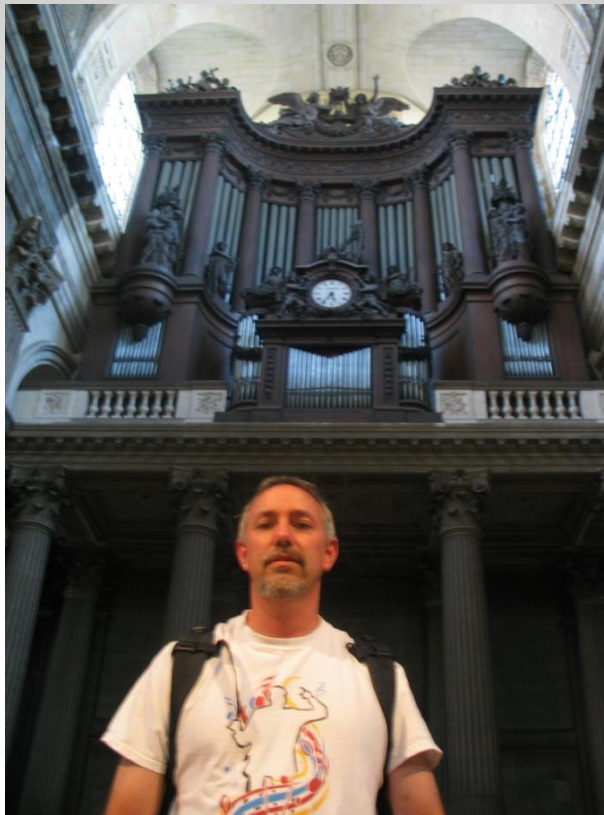
**UK03 – with
Nathan again –
England &
Scotland**





NW2004 in Washington and Portland area





Euro2005 including Germany, France, Austria, and Luxembourg



Euro 2007 including Ireland, Germany, Czech Republic

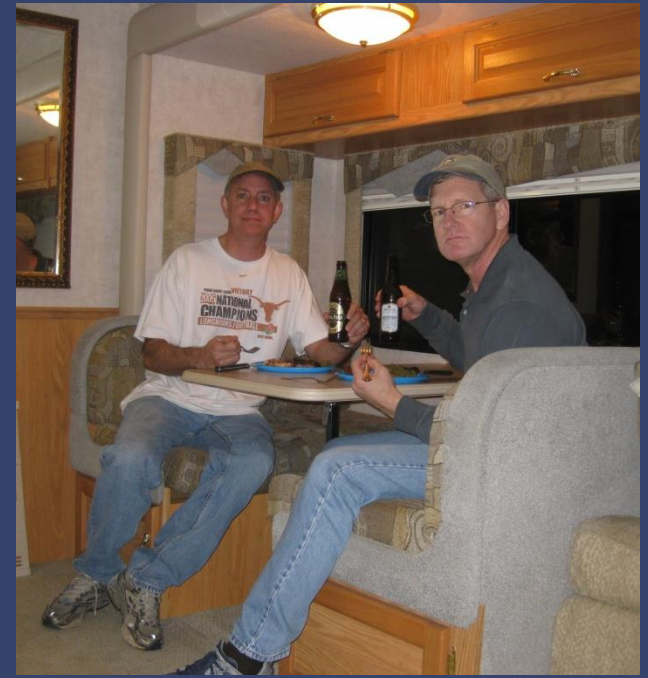


Great Lakes 2008 tour



Tour of the Northeast or New England states: MA, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME





**Ya never know
where we might
be: in Medina or
at the city dump,
but you can count
on a beer nearby
and some sort of
travel
conversation**



**Serious travel mode: map &
navigation system**



Who know what the future holds for our travel. As for now it looks like Budapest, Slavakia, Zurich, in general Eastern Europe will be the destination for summer 2010.



Once again we salute our fairer halves for putting up with our world travels. They keep our lives going all the rest of the year. Here's to ya, girls! (Lifting glass)