

It seems funny to be sitting in front of the fire place so soon after a United States summer. We are quickly losing our tans, and are so bundled up with clothes no one can appreciate what we still have left.

But to take us back to the day we left I'll have to hurry back to July 15th which seems aeons ago now! -----we left Chicago Sunday afternoon -- a hot day- and had a short flight to San Francisco - not very enjoyable because the plane had several stops to make along the way, therefore flying at a low altitude causing it to be really hot in the plane.

But we cooled off in San Francisco for an hour, ~~where~~ We were greeted by June and Andy and Karen Anderson and by the Walker McKeivitts, so had a profitable time between planes. We had dinner by plane on the way to Los Angeles -- a most pleasant flight -- then to bed as soon as we reached our hotel in L.A. -- Well, at least after a refreshing bath after the busy day.

After sleeping late the next morning we did some last minute shopping--knowing that was our last chance before leaving the states. When we checked out of the hotel at about 4 that afternoon we were guests of Bob's cousin Jimmy Nail until our time for departure from there house about 9:30 p.m. Enjoyed meeting wife and two children and seeing their new home.

It took some time to get everything in order at the air port .. Peggy went to sleep but Jan sat up wide awake taking it all in. Finally at 12:05 midnight we boarded the Scandanavian Airways Plane --planning to hop right into our beds after takeoff -- we had 3 berths reserved---but they served "Smorgesboard" --open sandwiches --delicious so we didn't get to bed for about an hour. They said the next stop would be Winnipeg Canada. That was scheduled for about 6:30 the next morning --- we decided not to get up for that stop --- The plane was there for an hour, during which time we all four woke up and dressed after take off. We then asked for our breakfast -- learning that we had slept through it. They informed us that it was nearly lunch time as they were moving clocks up. We wangled some orange juice out of them at any rate ---so about 45 minutes later they began serving lunch. Quite an experience. However, we relished it. Then all took another snooze. We arrived in Greenland -- our next stop after Winnipeg about 3 that afternoon (my watch was still L.A. time) where we had, of all things, cold orange ade. It really wasn't cold --- just a little wintry! However, one noticed that the sun was quite low in the sky and the few people in the little air base had a windblown look, and not much color.

There was much security effort here -- as we were approaching the beautiful coastline of Greenland Bob naturally started taking pictures out of his window. The officer on the plane informed him that this was forbidden. Then when we were on the ground we were met by a bus, carried about 150 yards to the little hostel and forbidden to leave the premises or take any pictures while there. Then after an hour when the plane was ready we were carried back to the plane. This is an important U.S. base, as one can readily understand. It is reassuring to know that they do take precautions such as this.

I was going to mention that after leaving Winnipeg the landscape was so interesting. After much beautiful farm land, many lakes began to appear, and after that we began flying over Hudson Bay which was densely covered with bits of floating ice. This kept getting more and more solid and one could hardly tell where this expanse of water ended for finally ice was everywhere.

But back to the approach to Greenland -- the coast line was very mountaneous and beautiful although bare -- this part of Greenland had no ice, but as we flew in over the mountains we could see beautiful mountain lakes, no doubt left by the winter snow -- after about 30 minutes or so we observed the signal to fasten our safety belts for we were coming in for a landing -- I couldn't imagine where, but we were still over very rough territory, but all of a sudden between mountains, and lakes, was a beautiful landing strip.

After we left this air base we almost immediately approached a great sheet of ice, which we stayed over til we went to bed. It was fantastically beautiful with a mountain peak sticking up out of it occasionally. The most vivid blue lakes appeared over so often -- reminding me of blueing being poured on the snow. They were very clear, but and one could imagine that the bottom was clearly there, but chances are it was an illusion.

By Los Angelus time my watch said 4:00 ----this was while we^{interested} were intensely ~~interested~~ in the landscape -- about an hour from the ~~last~~ air strip-- it was announced that we would now turn our watches up to midnight and that dinner was being served. It was also announced that we would arrived in Copenhagen in 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Well, of course we were all wide awake. But after a mid night snack we still were't sleepy, because the sun was still up ----As a matter of fact, we finally watched the sun and the moon set at the same time -- one of one side of the plane and the other on the other side. This was fascinating. The moon was very dull but the sun shone brightly. We hurriedly put the children to bed, the the sky still didn't get dark, and before we knew it, the sun was up again in about 30 minutes! Finally in desperation Bob and I went to bed, but the light would keep shining in our windows. Even with curtains. Finally after two hours of tossing and turning, I glanced at my watch, thinking it surely must have stopped (I couldn't hear it ticking beause of the plane), so I got up and dressed, sure that we must be nearly there -- the sun was brighter than ever. I finally realized realized that it was only about 4 a.m. so went back to sleep -- or tried to. Couldn't, so got up again and started to brush my teeth----got my mouth full of lather, and could get no more water----it was frozen!

The children slept on, but Bob too, finally got up for the same reason I did. I guess we were both excited over the prospect of approaching Denmark. Finally we began to leave the ice and approached beautiful farm land again. And before long the Safety Belt sign came on again and were were leaving our plane.

Even the children were wide awake with excitement. We were met at the air port by a former classmate of Bob's at John Hopkins. --Karen Dwyer. Its wonderful being "met" by someone in a strange land. And after a brief trip through customs were were happily on our way to the hotel. We were so early they didn't have our rooms available, but we both wanted to get out of our present clothes, so they let us use a couple baths and brought our luggage up there for the purpose. I was amazed when I opened my suitcase at how icy my clothes were -- it was really amazing, but no telling wat the temperature in the baggage compartment of a plane going through the artic circle.

Anyway, after freshning up, our car arrived when Bob had arranged to hire, and Karen and the four of us started out on our 36 hour tour of Denmark. She had mapped out a wonderful trip for us that day -- and it was all most interesting--but that could keep me more than busy tonight telling you all about Copenhagen -- so if you don't mind, I will save that part and the trip to Rome for the next installment.

I know that you are all anxious to hear from us ---we have been negligent in not writing from Johannesburg, but you can imagine how busy we have been getting unpacked, getting the things in our house unpacked, getting Jan back to school (which meant getting her winter uniform in order) besides being affected by the altitude which tends to make one unbearably sleepy. Anyway, the house is running smoothly at last, Bob is happy to be back at work and Jan simply thrilled to be back at school.