

# Jim and Emmy's Travel Journal

## The Country of Denmark

1979 and 1985

### 1979

We arrived at the Luxembourg Airport on August 26, bought a camper at the US Army base in Mannheim, and visited Emmy's cousins and West Germany for a few days. We took Linda to the Luxembourg airport for her return to the US, then drove to Travelmunde, West Germany, and by ferryboat to Gedser, Denmark.

Arrived in Denmark, at Gedser. The topography is flat and not too exciting, but the weather is beautiful. Found the campsite a few miles north of Copenhagen then drove downtown to see the city. We found a parking place in front of the Tivoli Gardens, a very unusual place. An amusement park right in the heart of downtown Copenhagen, full of restaurants, "carney games," rides, and some small-time gambling games.

We walked around town and along the "walking street." Bought a tea kettle for Hagar's mother, and in the evening spent some more time at Tivoli Gardens. A delightful place, with pleasant weather, full moon and all. Had dinner, looked around some more, then found our campsite with not much problem. Only one or two other campers in the campgrounds.

We had originally decided to get to Finland as quickly as possible, but have now sent a wire to Ron and Hagar saying we would be a couple of days later than first expected.

#### DK, Copenhagen, Sep 7, Fri - 3

Left the campsite by 7:45 and drove around the town. Found a parking place near the downtown shopping area again, and walked through the city. Emmy bought another of the teakettles for herself. Many people speak English, so information and directions are easy to understand. Left at noon and drove toward Helsingor, but stopped at a park where they had many tame deer that we watched for awhile.

In the evening, the local girls' band in Helsingor marched through the shopping district. They are very good, and had visited the US and Disneyland last year. Jim's love of band music (and girls!) persuaded him to walk all over Helsingor listening to the band.

The campsite is near the water, and we can see the lights of Sweden just a short distance across the Øresund. Emmy fixed hamburgers for dinner while Jim listened to the English language news from Radio Moscow.

We have found many good fruit stores, and more good fruit than we remember in 1970. Emmy does not like the fact she cannot select her own fruit—they select and we take, or forget it.

**DK, Helsingor, Sep 8, Sat - 4 - 209 - 905**

We proceeded by ferry from Denmark to Sweden, then by ferry to Finland, and another ferry back to Sweden. We then visited along the Norwegian coast (including many small ferryboats), crossed a small part of Sweden, then another ferry from Goteborg, Sweden to Fredrikshaven, Denmark.

There were no customs people of any kind when we arrived, so we went direct to the campsite. The Fredrikshaven campsite is new and the facilities are the best we have seen anywhere, including most hotels. The facilities include everything we could want, and the camp sites are divided into small areas by trees and hedges, but there is no one here to collect the money.

**DK, Fredrikshaven, Sep 28, Fri - 14 - 212 - 3,504**

A very nice town. They are celebrating the opening of a new railroad station and there are bands and dignitaries all over the place. It's pleasant driving through Denmark, but not scenic like Sweden and Norway. This is just all flat farm land, with a strong wind. The towns are clean and neat and look like nice places to live.

**DK, Arhus, Sep 29, Sat - 15**

We are having nice weather, but the wind continues. We went to the large island and visited Odense and saw Hans Christian Anderson's home. They are remodeling that part of town. In his home they play tapes of some of his stories.

Had planned to go to the Island of Aero, but found the ferryboat needed to continue from there, closed for the season. Aeroskobing is supposed to be a well preserved town, but we saw Faborg instead.

Faborg has narrow streets and thatched roofs, but the stores are closed Saturday afternoon. We stopped and looked at a new house being built by a family. It had heavy thick concrete walls, and the plumbing, and the electric wires are laid on a rough concrete floor, waiting for a final smooth concrete layer to be poured. Small bedrooms with no closets. Looked like the space for the staircase was so small, getting furniture to the second floor may be a problem.

Took the ferryboat from Bojden to Fynshav for \$10. Much more expensive than in Norway.

**DK, Fynshav, Sep 30, Sun - 16 - 225 - 3,779**

Drove the short distance into Germany and on to Hamburg. On the Danish side of the border, many stores sell groceries and other things priced in both Danish and German money. It must be cheaper than Germany, but didn't see anything worth our effort as we try not to have many groceries on hand at any one time.

We crossed West Germany, spent a few days in The Netherlands, then Belgium, and to Germany for a few days. After a couple more days in Belgium, we entered France.

After several days we drove south across France, to Spain. For several days we visited Spain, spent a couple of days in Portugal, back to Spain, then spent two days on a tour to Morocco in Africa. We visited more in Spain, spent two nights in Palma, Majorca and a couple of days later, drove to the France Riviera. We then drove east along the Mediterranean Sea to near Genoa, Italy, then to northern Italy and through the tunnel under Mont Blanc, back to France.

After a couple of days in France and Switzerland, we returned to Mettlach, Germany and parked the camper at Toni's neighbor (for several months). From Luxembourg's airport, on November 29 we flew to Iceland for a couple of days, then home to the US.

## 1985

We arrived in West Germany on May 30. Did some sightseeing in Germany, a few days in The Netherlands, and after a couple of days in Belgium, enjoyed two weeks in France. Crossed Luxembourg to Germany, and after a week at Toni's, we entered France, on our way to the Alsace.

Crossed the western border of Switzerland, and a few days later entered Italy. We visited Milano, Venice, (the country of) San Marino, Florence, and Rome, Italy. Boarded a ferry and crossed the Adriatic Sea, to Yugoslavia. After a joust with the police in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, we went to Vienna, Austria and got visa's and permission to visit Czechoslovakia and Poland. From there we crossed the East Germany border, then back to West Germany. We caught a ferry from Germany to Denmark.

The boat we are on is hauling people, trucks, cars, buses, and railroad cars. Some of the people got on the train in London, took a ferryboat across the English Channel, then the train to here, and this train-boat to Denmark. The train will take them to Copenhagen, then a train-boat to Sweden, then train to Stockholm, a train-boat to Helsinki, then overland by train to the Soviet Union. Sounds like fun, but that's not our way of life.

This ship, M/F Prins Henrik, is clean and neat, and has a large restaurant, small cafeteria, a snack bar, conference room, gymnasium, a duty free shop the size of a supermarket that's complete with shopping carts, butter, cheese, candy, tobacco, liquor, and more. Can't compare it to the ship in Italy, what a difference. The ride takes about an hour, and there are 15 to 20 ferryboats a day between these two ports, and there are other ports, just as busy. Nice sunny day at the moment.

As we arrived in Denmark, the customs man stamped our passport. While he was trying to get the rubber stamp to work we told him about our trip to Poland, and he said there is plenty of food in the markets in Denmark, but the government can't afford to give him a workable rubber stamp. This is the first place, outside of Iron Curtain countries and their Visa's, anyone has bothered to stamp a passport in a long time.

Denmark is very flat, lots of water, brick houses, and thatched roofs, bridges, boats, and farmland, and fields of red poppies.

We just had a shock like we have had before, but it always gets to us. We saw a big tour bus coming down the road toward us, but saw no driver! Then we see the bus is from England, and notice the driver is on the other side.

We are nearing Copenhagen and it's a sunny day, and there's not much traffic. As we got off the freeway we see a huge ugly office building. They have bicycle paths and traffic lights. We found a parking place across from the RR Station, right next to the Tivoli Gardens. Walked around town, mainly down the long walking street. We ate at McDonald's and Burger King, and went to the campsite at about 3:00 PM. It was easy to find.

Jim looked for a Danish language copy of "Gone with the Wind" for Linda's collection, and found it was out of print, but they sent Jim to a used book store where he found a copy. The local theater was showing the movie, and they had posters in the lobby that looked like they had been folded and refolded over the years, each time they had shown the movie. Don't expect they would be interested in selling them.

At 7:00 PM last night we walked to the bus stop and caught the bus downtown. As we got on and gave the man the money for two, he gave Jim one ticket that we assumed was for two fares. A few minutes later a man in uniform got on the bus and asked to see everyone's ticket. Jim gave him the ticket, and he wanted to see the other one. Since we had only one ticket, he was going to fine us. Jim took the policeman to the Copenhagen bus driver who agreed we had paid for two, and now he gave Jim the second bus ticket. Never did understand what happened, or why.

Throughout Europe, no one takes, or even checks to see if you have a ticket as you board the bus, streetcar or subway, but when a special policeman asks to see your ticket, you better have one, or it can get very expensive! The driver apologized again as we got off the bus.

We walked all through Tivoli Gardens, stopping to watch the rides, and eating some odds and ends at various food places. Had especially good popcorn. They have what appears to be small-time gambling, expensive restaurants, band concerts, and entertainment acts of many kinds. A really interesting place. Wonder why no other city has something similar to Tivoli Gardens.

#### **DK, Copenhagen, Aug 31, - 73 - 111 - 8,824**

We bought a couple of odds and ends at the flea market, and found the Mermaid Statue in the harbor and took pictures. This morning we saw a beautiful Lutheran Church in Copenhagen, with a circular staircase up the outside of the spire. We should have found out if we could have walked up the staircase if we had wanted to visit the top of the spire.

We now drove west from the city and stopped at an enormous store. It's the equivalent of several big K-Marts, and is three stories high. It's filled with everything we can imagine for sale, including the kitchen sink, and the kitchen cabinets and all the rest!

As we drove across the countryside we saw a large field filled with people and vehicles. Would you believe it, this part of Denmark's annual, yes once a year and we are here, flea market! Walked all over the place and of course bought several things. Emmy is proud of the little (3" X 4" X 8") brass box that

was once used to sterilize needles, etc., by horse and buggy doctors years ago. In another part of the flea market Emmy saw a box that was similar and much more expensive than the one she bought, but not nearly as pretty.

We went to Helsingor and found the same campsite we used the last time we were in the area. But we aren't here at the right time to see the girl's band march through the town, like we did in 1979.

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## September 1985

### DK, Helsingor, Sept 1, Sun - 74 - 82 - 8,906

We left the camp at 8:30 this morning, and are now waiting in line for the boat to Sweden. We just bought a ticket for this ferryboat ride (half hour) and the return from Sweden to Fredrikshaven, Denmark, (three hours) for the grand cost of \$36. This must be the lowest ferryboat fares, and the best ferryboats in the world.

We arrived at Helsingborg at 9:40 AM. They did not ask for our passports, but did ask if we had anything to declare. We haven't the slightest idea what answer we should give, or what they want to know. In Denmark's book about customs it seems even sausages and potatoes are to be declared, but maybe only truckloads. We always tell them "no" when they ask what we have to declare, but Jim will declare it's a beautiful day, if we get a happy looking border guard.

We traveled by ferry from Helsingor, Denmark, to Helsingborg, Sweden, visited that country a few days, then ferried from Goteborg, Sweden to Fredrikshaven, Denmark.

Again there were no customs or immigration people to meet us when we arrived at the dock in Fredrikshaven, Denmark. We almost remembered where the campsite was, and there was no one there to collect the money this time either. We found a camping spot with electricity available, and made ourselves at home. Later we drove downtown and walked around for a while, then back to the campsite to rest.

### DK, Fredrikshaven, Sept 9, Mon - 82 - 18 - 9,795

This morning someone was in the office at Fredrikshaven to collect money for 1985, but Jim didn't offer to pay for 1979.

This part of Denmark is mostly level farmland with small very livable, but not touristy, towns here and there. The town of Aalborg is a little larger, and nicer than most. The architecture looks different from a lot of other places in Denmark. Some buildings are medieval looking and there was a McDonald's in the middle of town.

Again, it's all relative. If they put these buildings in Los Angeles, or elsewhere in the US, they would be an attraction. But after we have seen Luneburg and Celle, Germany or the French Alsace, the buildings in Aalborg are not all that interesting to us, from a tourist standpoint. No, that's not quite right, they are very attractive, but just not AS attractive!

This has been a very sunny day with a little wind, but not nearly as bad as 1979 when it almost blew the camper off the road.

We stopped in Arhus and visited the outdoor museum where they have moved houses from various parts of the country for display and preservation. They have one or two each, of several different types, all located around a small lake. It's a tourist place with eating places and some other exhibits and stores and street vendors. About one block away we saw a sign for "Montvaser" which we find is a laundromat, so we parked and washed the clothes. It was rather expensive, but nothing like the cost in Austria, for example. The laundromat in Arhus even had a special room for ironing.

We followed sign after sign near Horsens, for at least half an hour, around and across town, then saw the campground, but it looked closed. We mentioned to the man that we had come so far, and asked what we should do now. He opened the gate, and directed us to a spot to park and connect the electricity for the night. He offered to turn on the hot water. We told him not to bother, we weren't too dirty and we were glad for the place to stay.

**DK, Horsens, Sept. 10, Tue - 83 - 160 - 9,995**

This morning the man from the office of the campsite in Horsens came over with some hot fresh baked bread for our breakfast. Just as we arrived last night, the manager and his wife were ready to leave for their home, after closing the campsite in Horsens for season.

They decided we looked too tired to look for another campsite, so they changed their minds and stayed another night, just for us. Amazing what nice people we find in every country!

We recommended, and he said he would tell the city fathers, to put a strip of red tape over the camping signs so no one else would go through all the effort and find the campsite closed. Very nice of them to be concerned.

We see buses used for visitor tour groups in the summer being used in Denmark for school buses during the winter. That makes so much sense we doubt it's a government idea. Gasoline in Northern Denmark is about 20 cents a gallon less than in Southern Denmark. Since Sweden's gasoline is also 20 cents less than the price in Germany, looks like they are afraid people will go to the other country to fill up!

The man at the next table on the ferryboat on Sunday was a sales manager for the Lego Toy Company. Emmy had already heard of Legoland, so we will visit the Lego Company's version of Disneyland in Denmark. It's located right next to a large International Airport.

They have built a miniature city, an idea much like Maduradam in The Hague, Holland, and Melide, in southern Switzerland. This one made no attempt to be to scale, like the others. Each exhibit is built using Lego toy building blocks. They have towns, special buildings, fishing villages, an airport, and special interest areas from other countries. They have small versions of the Acropolis from Athens, the Presidents from Mt. Rushmore, and monuments from the Nile river in Egypt, all built from Lego blocks. They also had a full-size replica of an US western town. Emmy had a piece of their apple pie, which she pronounced awful.

There is also a high tower with an elevator to take us to the top so we could look over everything. They have museums for toys from years ago, a doll museum and several company exhibits with stores, like Royal Copenhagen dishes, etc. The lady at the desk said they have had 14 sunny days in Denmark this summer. We have been here all or parts of 5 days, and 4 of them have been sunny. Really lucked out.

The man who runs the elevator was recently in San Francisco and was offered a job by the Green Peace organization. They said they would forge any needed documents for him. Nice organization.

We see a lot of thatched-roofs on houses and some barns. It's so interesting seeing the windows with "bulged" glass in each pane. We stopped at an antique store and the man said Swedish antiques are more available, and priced lower than the ones in Denmark. A man in Sweden told us his best customers are from Denmark.

In another store, we talked to a Dane who had sent his two daughters to school in the US, one to Ohio and the other to Wisconsin. We asked what their opinion was and he said the US families do not eat three meals a day together, and do not spend enough time together. The blacks and whites do not associate with each other either, and there is no discipline in the schools. The teachers are not as interested in their students as the Danish teachers are.

When we talked to him about the race problem, he admitted there are 200 Iranians in Denmark, and the Danes are very upset with them. The Danes complain that in the US, we don't treat our millions of immigrants the way the Danes say we should, but they don't want any immigrants at all, and treat the ones they have very badly.

At the border with Germany, we again find many gas stations, and stores of various types. We wonder why they have the grocery stores with both German and Danish prices, as the prices don't look much different, from what we see in other places. We don't buy enough at any one time to really keep track of living costs.

Crossed border to Germany, and drove back to cousin Toni's. We went to the US Embassy in Luxembourg to get some papers notarized, and drove a through a small part of France.

We visited Germany another week or two, crossed Luxembourg and Belgium, and drove to Rotterdam. On October 21 we we put the camper and us on a ship and sailed to London. Then we continued across the Atlantic Ocean for 10 days to Montreal, Canada on the SS Stefan Batory. From there we drove home to California.