

January 21, 1972

Dear Friends and Family:

Well, we are home! We had to delay our trip because I was ill, and we left for Europe still sick. The doctor said I had bronchial pneumonia the day we left Dallas...

We did everything we had intended to do except visit Zurich and Joachim Joesten. I had been looking forward to meeting him after several years of correspondence, and particularly after Bob Cutler had spoken so enthusiastically about him. However, as we got higher and higher in the German mountains, my husband was having more and more difficulty breathing and I was having frequent nose-bleeds and terrific headaches, so we decided we had better forego the Swiss Alps...

We went through Germany, France, Luxembourg and Belgium. I think I liked Germany best of all. I am still awed by the fact that I walked through Trier which dates back to 2000 B.C. In many ways, it hasn't made as much progress in almost 4,000 years as Mesquite, Texas, has in the past ten years. However, there is another way to look at it. Those Roman ruins will be there for another 4,000 years, and the skyscrapers of Dallas probably won't stand for another 50 years! Karl Marx was born in Trier.

I returned home to a mountain of mail and Christmas presents to acknowledge (George Rennar, what I want to know is where on earth did you get it? It's fascinating.) (Fred, you are right. He did go abroad immediately after the assassination for the government. I'll have to go through clippings, etc., but will send you the information.) I really envy Harold Weisberg his ability to stay up all night answering mail in great detail.

I'll get down to work and answer your letters individually as I can. Other than a bad cough, I seem to be completely recovered. I think I gave the customs people a few bad moments will all the medication I travelled with. They probably thought I was a "pusher" of some kind... just couldn't decide of what!

I sincerely hope that all of you have a very happy and prosperous New Year and that we can all get together during 1972.

Love,

Mary Ferrell

The lovely
Pan Am bag
really came in
handy. Thank
you for
everything -
mostly just
being you!