

1982 07 06 - Letter from Marie Scherer to Patty Barnes (Transcribed)

A letter from Marie Scherer to Patty Barnes. The letter was mailed from Calistoga, CA
July 6, 1982

Dearest Patty,

About Rivaralo. It's flat farmland and an ugly village. Before my grandfather died he had a large bakery of bread and all kinds of sweets and cakes. Also supplied the small bakeries in the nearby villages. Two of mother's sisters had large ??????. Their husbands and offspring are there. One cousin was married to a pharmacist. One of their daughters was married to a doctor. The families who could afford it, sent their offspring to colleges in large cities to learn a profession or trade. I corresponded with English-speaking cousins for a long time, but as the old people died off, we stopped.

We enjoyed our two trips there. The last one I had to cut short because of the heat. Guess the older people are all gone and I don't know anyone. The people we knew were nice and hospitable. Food extra good.

We took a motor trip from Milano to Paris in 1927 via some Italian lakes. The driver knew all the places of interest and restaurants all the way. We stopped for lunch on the villa ?????? on Lake Como. Lovely place and good food. Next was Strenza. Good hotel, beautiful Lake. Lots of large rowboats covered with white linen pillows. Each boat was manned by its owner. Louis Brullard suggested Fisherman's Island for dinner. It was about 20 minutes by rowboat. Good food and lots of fun. Next we went to another Inn on top of the mountain. Snaky road, beautiful view and a good Sunday dinner. The food we get now here isn't fit to eat. The store food is awful and so it is in the restaurants. The last good lunch we had was in your little house. You paid \$18 for the leg of lamb. Waddy was there.

I've been to Venice several times now, it's sinking. Tourism at its best and food good. Also good accommodations. We went there on a local ???????. My best new suitcase full of new things and some jewelry was stolen. No Pullman Porter on train. Only in restaurant.

Waddy and I were in Lugano. Beautiful view from hotel at night. The family lived there for a year before we came to America. I remember something about it although I was only five. Now they say Switzerland is smog ridden.

I didn't like Austria. Toni says the economy is good there now. The fare there is mostly all kinds of sausages and sauerkraut. Most cake is covered with ?????? cream of. Always has been like this in Germany and Austria. They eat a lot of delicatessen. Toni told them not to put cream on her cake. They brought a bowl on the side. Robert was sent there last Christmas by his company, Toni went along. Economy good in East Germany. Climate rotten.

Dorothy and Warren were in Rome, Paris and London last year. When I asked Stevie how they liked it she said the airlines were always losing her luggage. So you had better ask Dorothy how the travel conditions are. Bad conditions can ruin your trip.

I didn't like the West Indies at all. Really nothing to see. And now with the poverty everywhere there, it must be awful. Our friend Hilda took a house in Jamaica. The were surly. One night a native attacked her in her bedroom with a knife. She defended herself with a chain. Her screams scared him off. Then it was to the hospital and home. She was cut. Did not get her rent back.

My letter is awful as usual. Waddy thanks you for the card. She is very ill. I'm not well either. This is an awful place to live. Hot until 2 AM.

Wonder how you can run two homes, pay high interest, pay off a swimming pool, plan trips, etc. on \$300,000. The dollar is about \$.40 now. You had better do some figuring. When someone comes your house in ???? and says I'll give you so much for your house, then you can be sure of the value of your house. It's my opinion that property that needs a special car to climb those hills is not very saleable. Don't defend on her say. Is the property moving? Carter was a good president but has no influence now.

Do you have hurricane insurance on your Florida house?

Don't ever go to Mexico. Barbara wrote me from there. Mexico City, the smog burning your eyes and choking from 3 million cars and houses in a city that is not large. Peso dropping. My poor relatives there!

If I were sure of my money, I'd move right back to the Pendleton, that is if I could afford a maid and nurse. Waddy would come too.

I still believe the banks are stealing estates from old people that can't fight back. I wouldn't dare accuse them. So I fully expect they will come up with a trick which will make Waddy and me look very bad. How can I beat them? They think I'm crazy but I'm not. They have misstated a lot of mv papers and there are reasons.

Goodbye Patty. Our love to you and Fred

Aunt Marie