

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC FROM DENMARK

Betty and Jorgen Bjorno (Denmark)

Someone asked me the other day: "What in the world can be so important that you defy all warnings, crossing the Atlantic, traveling a total of 10,000 miles, and spending a fortune?"

It's not easy to explain. But I know we are doing this, year after year, and in between we have seen most of the USA. This time we traveled the South and ended up in beautiful Kentucky, clad in pretty autumn colors. For some short 3 days we were brought together with nice fellows and good friends from near and far, sharing something we can't get any other place on earth. These conventions are something special. This time we felt we were very welcome and became spoiled. What a thrill to say hello to Bob and Mary Flanigan. Good to see Bill and Sue Comstock fine and healthy. Cheerful to meet again the great Norwegian descendant, Bob Solheim, the Piersons from Minnesota, and many, many others.

It's no secret that we have been close to Ross and Sue Barbour for more than twenty years, and it's a great luck that we still can meet and have so much fun, at least once a year. There was a restaurant close to the hotel called "Steak'n shake." Friday we went there with Ross and Sue for lunch. After the fine meal we would pay the check, but the waiter told us it already had been paid by a gentleman "with a gray beard!" Anyway, whoever you were - Thanks a lot.

In the hospitality room we did good trade and had good laughs with John Bangs, and we brought home much good music and the traditional sweatshirt. You who know me will know how wild I am by singing Freshmen. And we did it this year, too. In the music room with a patient Bill Martin, who hour after hour, by the piano, gave us a kick of fun, let us harmonize all the well-known arrangements from his songbook. In room 526 we gathered only four of us - Paul Halac, John Kingsley and I surrounded Bill and his little electric piano. While our women were shopping we sat there for more than two hours singing arrangement after arrangement, which really brought me into the skies. We missed Yas and his horn this year, but what a good bass singer John is. Where in Denmark do I find such good singers who can read a note directly from the paper and just sing it so precisely? I thank you so much.

Well, next to our ideal, we are only poor amateurs. Friday, in the cold cavern, and Saturday in the convention center, we experienced the real group. And what a good quartet and so much fine jazz-singing. Thank heaven for these young talented fellows who bring us all together, year after year, and keep the sound we love so much going. Keep on singing Boys, and be ready for Copenhagen. Anyway, whatever happens in this crazy world - we'll be together again.

Yours, Betty and Jorgen



Lovely Lorraine
"On Duty"

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