



SUE AND GARY



DINING ON THE RHINE RIVER AND OUR BOAT, THE AMADEUS SYMPHONY

Greetings and best wishes for the holiday!

Our year started with a flurry of travel. In February, we were in Cozumel, an island off the coast of Mexico near Cancun, enjoying snorkeling, Mayan ruins, and lots of sunshine.

In May we went to Amsterdam to start a river cruise 500 miles up the Rhine

River thru Germany, part of France and into Switzerland. Our travel on the Rhine was on a 400 foot boat that holds 150 travelers at the same level of comfort as an ocean cruise. Our trip was a scenic wonder with 22 castles and 100s of vineyards on steep hillsides. Many of the towns we passed

thru were almost totally destroyed during WW II and have now been rebuilt. The cathedral in Cologne was spared most of the destruction and it is impressive to see a building that took 600 years to build and was for many centuries the tallest manmade structure in the world.



PARROTS IN COZUMEL



COLOGNE CATHEDRAL



SUE IN AMSTERDAM

Greek Islands

After the Rhine, we flew to Greece. Athens is a huge city of 3 million people, rather noisy and overcrowded but with marvelous museums and sites of antiquity. Who could ever forget the magnificent Parthenon situated on the Acropolis overlooking the entire city?

From Athens, we were off to the lovely and relaxing Mykonos, one of the many Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. We traveled to Delos, a sacred island believed to be the home of the Greek gods, Apollo and Artemus and an impressive archeological site. We then visited the island of Santorini where the major town is perched on a volcanic rim 1000 feet above the blue ocean below. From there, we enjoyed Crete and then back to Athens before returning home.



THE PARTHENON



SANTORINI

IMAGES



SUE AND FRIEND



MYKONOS



DELOS



GREEK DANCING

Summer 2009

Later in the summer, we spent 3 days in Stanley, Idaho with good friends under perfect weather conditions and pedaled our bikes up the 2200 vertical feet to the Galena summit near Sun Valley.

In July, Sue returned to Newfoundland for a reunion of her old school pals from Bishop Spencer College, some of whom she hadn't seen in 47 years. On her way back with her brother, Dick, they also visited other old friends in Ontario and then met Gary in Toronto where he was attending a psychology meeting. Dick then came back to Idaho with us and we spent a month traveling throughout the Northwest.



NORTHERN IDAHO

HERE IS SUE AT AN INTERESTING SCULPTURE ALONG THE TRAIL OF THE COEUR D'ALENE BICYCLE PATH IN NORTHERN IDAHO

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the best of health in the coming year!

Contact us at: suepayne@cablone.net and garypayne@cablone.net or visit our Website:

http://web.mac.com/garypayne/The_Center_for_Pretty_Good_Advice/

SADLY OUR SUMMER ENDED ON A MORE SOMBER NOTE WITH THE DEATH OF GARY'S MOTHER, MARGARET. WHILE WE CELEBRATE THAT SHE ENJOYED A FULL AND VERY HAPPY LIFE FOR 89 YEARS, WE WILL MISS HER ONGOING PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES



MARGARET PAYNE

THIS IS A PHOTO OF MOM ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE SHE DIED. SHE WAS AN OPTIMISTIC PERSON WHO TREATED ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AS A MINOR INCONVENIENCE TO HER ENJOYMENT OF LIFE.