

December 28, 2012

For the family of Therese Jeanne d'Arc (Charest) Gaunt;

Born June 9, 1920 (St. Jean Baptiste, Pawtucket, RI), daughter of Ildephonse (some records show Alphonse) Charest and Emelie Frechette, married October 2, 1916 (*church?*) in Joliette, Quebec by Reverend Msgr. Forbes. Ildephonse is a chef cook at the Quebec House of Parliament, so the couple will live in Quebec City, Canada, where he is reputed to have apprenticed at Chateau Frontenac. In 1917, they moved to Grandmère PQ where Ildephonse worked at Hotel Canada in Trois Rivières. Four years prior to his marriage, he worked for Canada Steamship Lines, LTD.

My grandparents:

Athanase Charest & Albina Poulin of St. Ephrem, Upton, province of Quebec announced the birth of a son Ildephonse on March 10, 1890. Moise Frechette & Edmire Baillargon of St. Didace, province of Quebec announced the birth of a daughter Emilie on June 22, 1888. At the time of the Charest-Frechette marriage, the father Athanase lived on 63 Nash Road, New Bedford, MA.

My siblings: (brothers & sisters - first two born in Quebec)

Marguerite Albina was born in Grandmère on September 19, 1917

Louis George was born in Grandmère on October 4, 1918

Rita Edmire was born in Pawtucket, RI on September 21, 1921

Lucille Evelina was born in Woonsocket, RI on December 13, 1922

Armand Gabriel was born in Woonsocket, RI on August 16, 1924

Claire Marie was born in Manville, RI on November 5, 1925

Noëlla Cecile was born in Manville, RI on December 16, 1926

Rosaire Joseph was born in Manville, RI on November 7, 1930

My marriages:

I married Lionel Edward Hurteau in Catholic ceremony on July 4, 1939 at St. Anne's Church, Woonsocket, RI, legally separated on

June 14, 1965, divorced December 2, 1971, and an annulment was issued on January 20, 1984. He was born February 10, 1919 in Natick, RI and baptized February 12, 1919 (St. Joseph's Church), son of Leodore (some records show Eliodore) George Hurteau and Florette (some records show Fleurette) Marie Richotte. He died May 27, 2010 in Brevard County, Florida, was cremated, and is buried at St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

I married Julius Louis (some records say Julian) Floro in Protestant then Catholic ceremonies; on June 24, 1972 (First Methodist Church, San Mateo, CA), and on September 22, 1984 (St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Rohnert Park, CA). He was born December 8, 1916, son of Walter Floro (Italy) and Maria Meo (Italy). His occupation was Electrician and he died July 15, 1990 (St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Bellingham, MA).

I married Clifton Gaunt, in Protestant then Catholic ceremonies; on October 30, 1994 (First United Methodist, at his birth Church, Woonsocket, RI) and on July 12, 1995 (St. Augustine Church, Millville, MA). He was born in Woonsocket October 1, 1901 and died November 26, 2005 (Union cemetery, North Smithfield, RI).

My life:

I was born during the year of 1920 in Pawtucket, RI where my parents lived at 43 Webb Street. From there they moved to Sayles Street in Woonsocket, RI, then to Manville, RI when my sister Claire was born November 2, 1925. I made my first communion at St. James Church (in Manville, RI) at 6 years old, followed by my confirmation in St. Anne's Church at 12 years old after we moved to Woonsocket, RI. At 16 years old, I quit St. Anne's School to begin work at Florence Dye Works as a twister on Division Street in Woonsocket. I met Lionel who worked at Manville Jenckes Cotton Mill as an operator of Card Machines, married him at 19 years old, and we lived on 24 Gaulin Avenue, Woonsocket, RI during which time Pauline, Roland, and Jeannine were born.

In 1942, we moved to Morin Heights. Lionel changed jobs to work at Rheem Shipyards, Providence, RI, but was drafted into the U. S. Navy in September of 1943. The sudden announcement created a sense of fear and worry in my heart which caused a miscarriage of a baby boy and Nel was given a 3-month deferment. He reported being stationed in Algiers as a French interpreter and visited the Casbah. During the war, my sister Lucille babysat the children, and I worked for the family restaurant "The New Ideal" as a waitress from the evening at 8PM to 2AM the following morning, bringing the cash in a taxicab to my father's home.

After my father died on January 1 of 1945, my mother sold the restaurant. I went to work at Masurel Worsted on Division Street, Woonsocket as a twister, remaining there for 12 years. Lionel came home from the war in August 1945, spending 5 years in and out of the Navy Veteran's Hospital in Newport on a disability discharge for tuberculosis. Richard was born in 1946. In 1950, Nel became a chauffeur for Mrs. Guerin, owner of Guerin Mills. He joined the French-American Legion of War Veterans and I joined the Auxiliary, becoming its president in 1957, the year my mother died.

Denis were born in 1952 while we were living with my mother, so we bought a house in South Bellingham on Irving Street in June 1953, spending summers at Silver Lake. Pauline, Roland, and Jeanine were schooled at St. Louis Junior High, graduating in 1955-1956-1957 respectively, and Richard attended Assumption School in Bellingham. Nel was hired by Hodgman Rubber Shop in Framingham in 1954. During 1955, Pauline saved her brother Denis from being towed under by the rising waters of the brook flowing on the property, his winter clothing being drenched very wetly weighing his small body down. Paul and Ronnie were born in 1957 and 1959 respectively. Lionel had been disabled by tuberculosis of the bones, being treated at the hospital as an outpatient during the interim years, but in 1959 he worked at Hingham Shipyards in Boston.

In 1960 I, Therese worked as a waitress at Howard Johnson's in Park Square, Woonsocket, RI. I quit, wanting to attend my son Roland's graduation ceremony in the U.S. Marine Corps at Parris Island, SC. From there I drove to Florida with Therese Laprade and Simonne Glande to visit Aunt Albina. This was my first trip outside New England and it instilled a desire to travel more. Pauline got married to Andre Thibodeau in October of 1963 and moved to San Jose, CA. Richard entered the Marine Corps in the same year. Jeannine married Alfred Castro on May 30, 1964 and moved to San Francisco, CA, the city that attracted her romantic emotions.

In February of 1965, I took the bus to California with my three youngest sons; Denis, Paul, and Ronnie to see my first grandchild Tommy, born to the Castros of San Francisco and returned 10 days later, exuberant at seeing the country's many states! The urge to see the world was now set firmly in my mind. Richard married Nancy Bacon in January 1966. Denis graduated in June of that year, my husband and I had separated in June a year ago, so I made the decision to relocate my remaining family to San Mateo, California in August of 1966. My sister Noëlla, her son Jim, and daughter Jane accompanied me on the bus 4 days and 3 nights with Paul and Ron while her husband George and Denis drove cross country meeting us there 2 days later.

We all stayed at Jeanine's house. George and Noëlla soon found an apartment in San Mateo, CA, and so did I. There is a humorous story about my attempts at obtaining gainful employment, not wanting to become a burden on the state of California. When asked, I told the clerk at the unemployment office I was a "twister" in Rhode Island working from ten o'clock PM to six o'clock AM, not realizing at the time that San Francisco nightclubs hired *twisters* to dance in a cage! The gentleman looked at me surprised and asked, "How were you able to explain that sort of behavior to your 7 children?" And when I replied I had been a textile worker in a worsted mill, he verified the job description in his book, and the 'faux-pas' became a laughing matter among his co-workers.

Through the State Department of Unemployment, I went to Sequoia Adult School for training in Electronic Assemblage (soldering) from March 27 to April 28, 1967 and accepted a job as winder in GTE (General Telephone & Electronics) Lenkurt in San Carlos, CA (working 3 miles from home). After selling the house in Bellingham, MA I bought my own home on Irving St. in San Mateo. St. Timothy's School taught by Carmelite nuns was close by for Paul and Ron to attend. Denis attended and graduated from Father Serra Catholic High School on June 3, 1970. And I achieved my proud goal 3 days earlier by graduating from San Mateo High School on June 1, 1970! In 1972, after being introduced by my friend Isabelle at the 'Parents Without Partners' ballroom dance, I got married again. My husband Joe and I spent our honeymoon in Hawaii (Maui). The trip overseas was my first airplane ride but I vowed it wouldn't be my last!

But in January 1975, I was disabled by a hysterectomy. In March 1975, I had an excision for cervical Carcinoma. And in May 1975, another excision, of distal urethra, followed by bladder neck reconstruction on February 27, 1976 which required I wear an indwelling catheter. During 1979, we took a trip to Alaska in the summer and moved to Rohnert Park, CA. I began planning trips for senior groups to Lake Tahoe, Reno, and San Francisco nightclubs.

During the year 1980, while vacationing in Rhode Island, my husband Joe Floro and I were invited by my sister Claire and her husband Leo Forand to make a trip to Canada. I cut and left half a used catheter tube at L'Oratoire St. Joseph, Montreal PQ and the other half I put among the crutches of St. Ann de Beaupre in Quebec City with the hope for a cure.

Returning home, we stayed at Trois-Rivières overnight, and in the morning ate breakfast in the parish of Cap-de-Madeleine. Calamity hit, my tube became blocked! The pain being great, I removed the tube in the ladies room with the aid of the owner of the restaurant, who supplied scissors and a pad I could use as a cushion. Upon hearing I was going to pray at Notre Dame, she

suggested, "Don't pray! Talk to Our Blessed Lady and she will listen." At the grotto of the Cap-de-Madeleine Church, I hid the catheter wrapped in aluminum inside among the crutches and braces, and had a long conversation with the Virgin Mary. A week later, back in California on an appointment to install a new tube I explained my dire situation to the doctor, who discovered the leaching of urine was stopped and cured.

Established in 1981, I became the proud owner and tour director of Rancho Grande Travel Club, using my home address of 16 Circulo Lujo, Rohnert Park, CA. I spent the next ten years busily arranging tours that would allow me to visit a variety of attractions in both the United States and other countries of the world. For details of those trips see APPENDIX I - DOMESTIC TRAVELS & APPENDIX II - INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS in the rear section. Since the age of 10, I loved to crochet, so during these years I found time to make seven thin dainty tablecloths and thick wool afghan coverlets of many fancy patterns.

In March of 1989, my son Denis died and I lost interest in traveling because of Joe's failing health, finishing out the calendar year. I decided to move back to New England, bought a large cemetery plot and buried Denis there. My son Richard volunteered to build me a house. I finished the tours, sold my home in Rohnert Park in April, and we drove to Millville. In the meantime, we rented in Richard's blue house. Joe died on July 15th 1990, and my son Roland died on the 8th of August 1990.

In December 1990, now settled in my home behind the blue house, I decided to donate money for the Chimes and Carillion system installed in the belfry of St, Augustine's Catholic Church in Millville, in memory of my husband Julius L. Floro and my sons Roland & Denis Hurteau. The downstairs became extra income for me, renting out to my niece Sue and her husband Moe Joyal until they bought a house, and I continued renting it.

In 1991, Richard finished building his house annexed to mine. I decided to go west again in October 1992, picking up my son Ron

in Pennsylvania who drove us to my daughter Pauline's house in San Jose, CA. Then I drove south to visit my sister Rita for a week in Orange County, CA. My son Paul and his wife Christine live in Las Vegas, Nevada so I soon found myself working for Premier Marketing International as a telephone receptionist from November 16 to January 2, 1993 in that city. At which point, I decided to go to Florida and obtained work babysitting the children of the Seminole Indians, finding my time there quite rewarding.

In June 1994, having being introduced to him by Richard's friend Karen, I announced to my third husband's daughter Barbara that I planned to marry the World War I veteran 93-year-old Clifton Gaunt, and her daughters Kim, Dawn, and Barbara and one son Bill, Jr. giggled at the age difference but became elated at the idea. When asked if he'd like travel, Clifton responded, "I've always wanted to but my wife of 58 years never desired to. So my trips were limited to Rhode Island or Massachusetts.". The travel bug awakened within my spirits and of we went!

We married in October 1994, honeymooned in Washington D.C., sightseeing the buildings and monuments I had seen in 1989, saw Arlington Cemetery and Clifton wept. My brother Joe drove us to Gettysburg (Clifton's father fought there during the Civil War), and then we went to the Amish country where Clifton was impressed by wagons still being pulled by horses.

He lived another eleven years! How he enjoyed being a farmer; cutting grass while riding a power mower, and feeding the chickens and pigeons at my son Richard's ranch (he has horses too!). During the cold winter months of 1994-95 (December 26th to April 1st), we rented a mobile home in sunny Winter Haven, Florida and continued leasing each year until 2003.

When asked if he'd ever been on a boat, Clifton answered, "I went fishing on Lake Hiawatha and Silver Lake in Massachusetts." I made arrangements in January of 1997 to vacation on the Royal Princess for four days visiting Cozumel, Mexico and sail the Gulf of Mexico. Upon seeing the gigantic ship in Ft. Lauderdale, Clifton

looked up with awe and said, “This is a hotel on water!” I was impressed by his naivety, innocence, and frugality, ordering cheap entrées, not realizing they are included in the price of the trip, so I made sure he had a steak every day.

That same year we drove to visit Clifton’s daughter Barbara in Albany, NY. From there we visited Cooperstown’s baseball hall of fame and I took his picture with the statue of Babe Ruth. We went to Niagara Falls, continuing on to Montreal, PQ. He saw L’Oratoire St. Joseph, St. Anne de Beaupre, and Cap de Madeleine when we crossed the St. Lawrence River at Trois Rivières. We came home to Millville via Maria Von Trapp’s ski resort in Stowe, VT.

In June 1998, I surprised Clifton by driving to the Maritime Provinces via Maine, stopping at L. L. Bean. In New Brunswick at Magnetic Hill, which defies gravity, he got a kick out of the illusion our car was going uphill without power. We visited Prince Edward Island via ferry (known for ‘Anne of Green Gables’), drove the coast of Nova Scotia, and returned home to Millville.

October 1, 2001 we celebrated Clifton’s 100th birthday at St. Augustine’s Parish Hall in Millville attended by 150 people and my son Ron who returned to California. On December 3rd, Richard drove us to San Pablo, CA where Clifton and I stayed 5 weeks at his home, while Ron recuperated from medical treatments obtained at Kaiser Hospital. Sensing he was getting healthier, I drove to San Diego to connect with Route 10 on our way to Winter Haven, FL. A month later I drove back to New England to bury my son Ron.

With Lionel Hurteau, I gave birth to 7 children:

Pauline Therese, born at one o’clock AM on Gaulin Avenue (attended by Dr. Tremblay) July 11, 1940, 5 lbs. 19 inches long, first grandchild and niece on both sides of the Hurteau-Charest families, baptized at St. Anne’s Church, godparents were my parents. She was walking at one year old and graduated St. Clare

High School in 1958. Married André Thibodeau October 5, 1963 and is currently married to Frank Watson.

Roland Lionel, born at three o'clock AM on Gaulin Avenue (attended by Dr. Tremblay, his Mémère Charest, and his Mémère Hurteau) August 1, 1941, 5 ½ lbs. 18 inches long, baptized at St. Anne's Church, godparents were Lionel's parents, walking at one year old and taught Pauline to talk. He graduated from Mount St. Charles Academy in 1959, was married to Pauline Gingras October 10 1965 who gave birth to three children (Marc, Kevin, and Laura), deceased August 8, 1990, and is buried at Slatersville Cemetery.

Jeannine Marguerite, born at four o'clock AM on Gaulin Avenue (attended by Dr. Tremblay, her Mémère Charest, and her Mémère Hurteau) September 18, 1942, only 4 ½ lbs., required breast-feeding or I would have lost her, very delicate for 6 months, baptized at St. Anne's Church, godparents were my sister Marguerite and her husband Adrian Paquin. She graduated from St. Clare High School in 1960, married Alfred Castro May 30 1964 giving birth to Tommy, deceased December 27, 1997, buried in St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

I suffered a miscarriage of my 5-month old baby boy in September 1943, due to the news my husband had been drafted into the military during World War II.

Richard Rene was born November 21, 1946. He joined the U. S. Marines in 1963, married Nancy Bacon January 29, 1966, and was discharged from the Corps December 1966. Their family numbers three: Steven, Glenn, and Tracey.

On the evening before my sister Noella's wedding, I suffered a miscarriage at the fifth month of my baby girl in April 1948. The bridal party came to visit me at the hospital.

Denis Edward, born December 19, 1952, deceased March 25, 1989, buried in St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

Paul Rosaire, born December 16, 1957, his wife Christine gave birth to their daughter Danielle April 24 1996. He is currently married to Patricia Perron, the ceremony taking place February 4, 2005 at the Library of North Smithfield, RI.

Ronald George, born May 1, 1959, baptized at St. Joseph's Church, godparents were Florence and George Hurteau, deceased January 31, 2002, buried in St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Bellingham, MA.

I have 9 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren:

Roland's Marc Hurteau sired 3 girls: Samantha, Sydney, & Sage.

Roland's Kevin Hurteau sired 2?

Jeannine's Tommy Castro sired Amy, Jessica, Justin, and Kristopher!

Richard's Steven sired Alexander and Nathan.

Richard's Glenn sired Keith and Tyler.

Richard's daughter Tracey gave birth to Makenzie and Matthew.

Richard's daughter Kristin gave birth to Olivia, Benjamin, & Rosalie
Danielle and Laura have no children.

APPENDIX I - DOMESTIC TRAVELS

I planned a 29-people, 15-day motor-coach excursion to view New England and Canadian Autumn Foliage in **September 1983** visiting Niagara Falls on the 'Maid of the Mist' boat ride, 1000 islands in the entrance of the St. Lawrence River, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Montmorency Falls, and Shrine of St. Anne De Beaupre. Leaving Canada for Vermont we stopped at St. Johnsbury (Maple Grove Maple Museum), Franconia Notch State Park (White Mountains), and stayed in North Conway, New Hampshire (tramway up Mt. Cranmore to view Mt. Washington). We saw the Maine coast before entering Massachusetts to tour Gloucester. From Boston we went to Lexington and Concord before returning to San Francisco. Similar tours succeeded annually with variations like taking the Rideau Canal in Toronto, adding Cape Cod, Green Mountains of New Hampshire, and St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. There were 27 seniors in October 1986, 1987, 21 in 1988, and 1989.

On **April 21, 1984** we departed for a 15-day Princess Cruise trans-canal route (Panama) that would take 20 seniors to San Juan, St. Thomas, Caracas, Curacao, Panama City, Cabo San Lucas, and Los Angeles.

May 14, 1985 began my first Yosemite National Park 3-day tour which Joe and I did annually by motor coach with groups of 45 to 55 people until 1989.

From **September 16th to 28th, 1986**, through the Flying Dutchmen 34 seniors and I visited Hilo and Kona, Hawaii including Maui and Honolulu, Oahu to participate in the Hawaii Friendship Festival and take a volcano tour. This trip was repeated with 31 people September 15-24, 1988 and in September 18-22, 1989.

We planned a trip to Scottsdale, Arizona by jet with 15 people on **December 30, 1987** and a month later on **January 31, 1988**, Joe and I hosted a 7-night cruise to Mexico with 20 seniors.

We attended the 1989 Tournament of Roses in Pasadena, CA on **December 30, 1988** with a dozen people which also featured the

Lawrence Welk Orchestra at Victory Park and side trips to the Queen Mary and Spruce Goose in Long Beach.

February 4, 1989 I organized a 9-day tour of Arizona and southern California with Collette for roundtrip air and motor coach visiting Scottsdale, London Bridge in Lake Havasu City, Parker Dam through the Mojave Desert to Palm Springs (tramway up to Mt. San Jacinto), Lawrence Welk Village Resort in Escondido, stopped at the Mission San Juan Capistrano before touring San Diego.

The Rancho Grande Travel Club spent **March 18-26, 1989** in New Orleans on Bourbon Street, in the French Quarter, and toured St. Charles Avenue's residential district famous for their beautiful gardens. We took a Mississippi River cruise aboard the paddle wheeler S. S. Natchez and a separate cruise of the Bayous in Cajun Country. On the fifth and sixth days we saw Antebellum Mansions in the city of Natchez. Onward we visited Bellingrath Gardens of the Deep South and Biloxi before returning to New Orleans.

Feeling patriotic, I planned a 6-day American Heritage Tour beginning on **April 28, 1989**. We visited New York City (Statue of Liberty), Philadelphia (Liberty Bell & Betsy Ross Home), the Amish Country, Gettysburg (Shenandoah Valley), Monticello (Jefferson's home), colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon (Washington's home), and in Washington D. C. we enjoyed; the Smithsonian Institute, the White House tour, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery. In the evening I and my party took a twilight tour of the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument.

Not one to stay at home, a 13-day trip was planned to Alaska and the Yukon beginning **June 20, 1989** including 5 nights & 4 days aboard the Fair Princess, a week after our annual Yosemite Park 4-day tour. We landed in Anchorage sightseeing local points of interest and icebergs breaking off the glaciers in Portage Lake. Denali National Park was next (Mt. McKinley). We took a Tundra Wildlife tour then arrived in Fairbanks via railroad. We visited the Eskimo Museum, the Alaska Pipeline, the Yukon Territory and on

the eighth day boarded our cruise ship. Our group toured Glacier Bay National Park, Ketchikan, saw Vancouver Island, and eyed totem poles in Stanley Park Seattle.

On **November 28, 1989**, I found myself departing from New Orleans on the “Mississippi Queen” steamboat paddle wheeler visiting St. Francisville, Vicksburg, Natchez, and Baton Rouge.

APPENDIX II - INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS

I began organizing international tours on **September 17, 1982**. It was a 14-day Mediterranean Sea cruise for 12 people. Our ship departed Athens after a full-day's visit which included the Acropolis and the Parthenon in Greece; with stops in Kusadasi (Ephesus) and Istanbul (Blue Mosque) in Turkey, the Greek Isles of Mykonos and Rhodes (Temple of Athena), Cairo (Port Said) in Egypt (Pyramids and Sphinx), Haifa (Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth) in Israel, the Greek isle of Hydra, and returned to Athens for the U.S. flight.

During **October 5-23, 1984** I hosted 32 people including my daughters Paulina and Jeannine on a European tour. We visited London, England; crossed the English Channel at Dover, stopping at Ostend and Brussels, Belgium; via motor coach we toured the Rhineland (Bonn, Frankfurt, Wurzburg, Nuremburg, and Regensburg). In the Danube Valley, we took a ferry across the river and drove to Vienna. From Austria, we traveled by way of the Styrian Alps into Italy passing through Tarvisio into Venice. We had to go through the delta of the River Po to get to Ravenna, the heart of the Apennines, stopped in Perugia before entering Rome. We stayed there a day sightseeing before going on to Florence. Our group crossed over into Switzerland October 17th at Lugano and on to Lake Lucerne. From Basle we motored through Champagne country in France, then Troyes and Paris. We spent two days there before returning to London.

Fifteen people joined Joe and me on another Mediterranean cruise tour for 12 days in **June 1, 1985**. We stopped at the following Greek ports; Athens, Delos, and Mykonos. Across the sea, we visited Alexandria, Egypt; Haifa, Israel; returning to Rhodes, Greece and Heraklion, Crete; and spent a day at sea before reaching Messina, Sicily and Naples, Italy.

From **October 12 to November 3, 1985** Joe, my son Ron, and I traveled with 19 people to Asia. Landing in Tokyo, Japan we

toured Nikko National Park, viewed the famed bronze Buddha at Kamakura, and took the bullet train at Atami to Kyoto. From there, we flew to China's Shanghai (Yu Yuan Gardens), to Xi'an (terra cotta army), and to Beijing (Peking). We were shown Tian An Men Square, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, a day-long excursion of the Great Wall, and Ming Tombs. Our next flight took us to Hong Kong to shop and explore at our leisure. From there our group visited Bangkok, Thailand and Singapore, Malaysia.

Still interested in the Pacific, I arranged a trip to Australia and New Zealand from **April 11 to May 3, 1986**. Eighteen people accompanied Joe and I to the southeastern tip of the smallest continent visiting Sydney (harbor cruise), Canberra (sightseeing and sheep shearing), and via the Alpine village of Thredbo, we entered Melbourne (mountain scenery and vineyards). Our New Zealand coastal tour began north at Auckland where we boarded a motor coach heading for Mount Cook, Lake Wanaka, and Queenstown (sightseeing). We crossed Kawarau Dam into Te Anau (saw Milford Sound), and stopped at a sheep farm in Dunedin. From Christchurch we flew to Wellington (sightseeing), drove through Tongariro National Park to Rotorua (Maori village, geysers, thermal waters, and boiling mud pools). Before returning to Auckland we got to see Glow-Worm Grotto, a boat tour of its eerie lights in the lofty cavern. Once there we went sightseeing and traveled to Mt. Eden to see the sprawling city from the summit of an extinct volcano. We liked it so much I planned a similar trip from October 22 to November 6, 1988 which included Nadi, Fiji and Brisbane.

July 23 to August 8, 1987 I planned a Scandinavian trip that took 23 seniors to Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Leningrad, and Norway. We arrived in Copenhagen, sightseeing Danish buildings and monuments (the Little Mermaid) for 3 days, and then took a scenic train journey to Stockholm to board Silja Line Cruise Ship. The Baltic cruise sailed us to Helsinki for a city tour by coach. By rail we traversed the Gulf of Finland to Leningrad, sightseeing the city and visiting the Hermitage's magnificent art collection. We

boarded the Helsinki train and boarded our cruise ship to Stockholm in Turku. We stayed in the Swedish capital for 3 days sightseeing, visited Uppsala's cathedral, Mora craftsmen, Kongvinger's fortress, and slept sensing Norwegian hospitality in Lillehammer. We drove through Valdres Valley and high mountains to Stalheim and into Oslo, where we viewed Vigeland's powerful sculptures and spectacular cityscapes.

Joe and I hosted 15 people during the springtime in Europe from **April 19 to May 4, 1989** on a 16-day land package tour of France, Italy, and Switzerland using the French *TGV* bullet train. We spent the first 3 days in Paris beginning with a group tour of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, and viewed Montmartre, but spent the remaining time mostly sightseeing on our own. We went to Dijon (walking tour of palace, museum, and cathedral) and Geneva (city tour of UN building, diplomatic center, and gothic cathedral). We returned through the Rhone Valley of France, stopped in Lyon, and arrived in the ancient city of Nimes, sightseeing Roman coliseums and aqueducts, then on to Avignon, once a papal home. The Riviera city of Nice was next with a free day to shop seaside boutiques. Our next destinations were along the Italian coast; Genoa, Pisa, and Florence. A walking tour of the city featured the brass baptistry of Cathedral Saint Maria, the Strozzi Palace, and the Pitti Palace. The next day we were in Rome visiting the Vatican City and St. Peter's Cathedral.

Fifteen days later on **May 19, 1989** I was flying to Barcelona, Spain for a Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean 12-day journey around Gibraltar to England on the Princess Line. The ports we stopped at were, Livorno, Italy; Civitavecchia, Italy; Cannes, France; Casablanca, Morocco; Lisbon, Portugal; and London (Tilbury).

My last major trip beginning on **September 17, 1990** was spending 17 days with 16 seniors traveling through Germany, Austria, Budapest, and Yugoslavia. We enjoyed a short tour of Munich before attending the 'Passion Play' in Oberammergau. Our group traveled through the Bavarian Alps, visited the Benedictine

Abbey in Melk, enjoying a scenic cruise on the Danube River in the Wauchau Valley, and disembarked at Duernstein for a short drive to Vienna. St Stephan's Cathedral and the palaces were on our sightseeing agenda. We crossed the border into Hungary at the picturesque Danube Bend, visited the Cathedral at Esztergom, to see the world's largest altar mural, and arrived at Budapest (Buda sits on one side of the Danube River and Pest on the other, where we visited Matthias Church, the Fishermen Bastion and the Parliament. Across the Hungarian Plains we passed by Lake Balaton and ascended the Julian Alps toward Lake Bled. We toured the Slavic capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, spent two days at the Plitvice Lakes region touring villages, traveled along the Dalmatian Coastline, winding our way into the mountain village of Medjugorje where Marian apparitions have been seen recently, which interested me and I prayed at the blessed church. Our last days were spent in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia's most popular city.