



Item: Fast Lane News #19th in 2023 (#166 since 2020)
From: Peter returning from the PCA Spring TREFFEN Plus
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family and Friends at home in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!
Subjects: Back to the US on Delta 117; Participants' Comments of a Great PCA TREFFEN; PORSCHE Factory; Alps; Lake Constance; Lake Como; My Final Thoughts: A sweet grandmother.

I. Delta 117 STR (Stuttgart) to ATL. Well, I landed in TPA after a relaxing 9½ hrs. flight from Stuttgart to Atlanta. I had no problem making it to my connecting flight to Tampa. I had time to do a little souvenir shopping at ATL Hartsfield. My eye caught a little saying on a dishtowel display: **"It's OK to fall apart sometimes. Tacos fall apart and we still love them."** I bought one for each of the ladies in our office. Very appropriate. We now need to do all the post-trip reconciliation; nudge all the participants who have not yet sent their pictures to our drop box; and follow up with all the customers regarding their future trips.

PCA TREFFEN a Customers' Comment: *"Peter, just wanted to let you know that there are no words to really describe this tour. It's beyond comprehension what you, Tasha and the rest of your staff do to make this happen. I am also touched by the "surprise" that you left me at the Zeppelin (a pair of leather driving gloves). Thank you so much. It was nice to have Johny as my navigator. He and I worked well together. He admits that I am probably one of the better and "fastest" driver for this tour and would be delighted to have me back. If you weren't kidding about being your driver, I would be honored to return as a driver for you if time allows me. Some of my physician colleagues are inquiring about my experience and how to go about their opportunity to do this tour. Of course, they would like to go when I would be there. I was asked by one of the medical schools in Tampa to teach or give a lecture. I will definitely visit you guys. Thanks again for this amazing experience."* Dr. Nick Gabriel, MD, California.

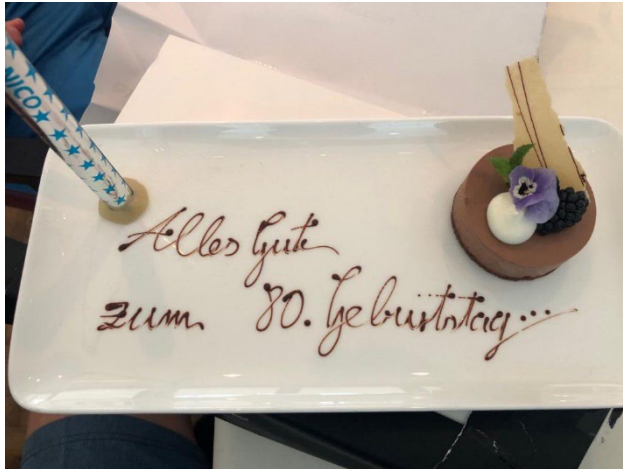
II. Some PCA Treffen Images: Yes, I checked six pieces of luggage because I bring about 80% of the good night gifts that the customers receive, with me to Europe



One of the key elements of a successful photo rally is to purchase “valuable” prizes at the Flea Market on the Karlsplatz on a Saturday in Stuttgart. The Stuttgarter Saturday Markets are legendary. The Farmers’ Market features produce the likes of which we have never seen in the US, such as wild strawberries with THE most intense aroma and flavor. In addition, they sell wonderful home-made moonshine. The Flower Market, on Schiller Platz, is breathtaking.



Our visit to the PORSCHE Factory was special because we were able to get into the exclusive huge hall with the 911 assembly line. Afterwards we were treated to a spectacular Filet Mignon lunch at the renowned Christophorus Restaurant. Of course, today, **April 25th 2023 was my, OMG, yes – 80th birthday.** I was presented a special birthday gift and greeting from Dr. Wolfgang Porsche himself.



This was my **225th Porsche trip** to the Factory in Zuffenhausen. The entire staff at the great Christophorus Restaurant congratulated me. To be honored by Dr.



Wolfgang Porsche was a special recognition for the close to 50 years of service to the PCA and the Porsche Company. Other executives were present for the celebration.



After the **Factory** visit and the guided tour of the magnificent **PORSCHE Museum**, we picked up our rental PORSCHEs. Everyone high-fived because the customers got exactly what they wanted, thanks to the wonderful team headed by Laura. John Horne and I were even able to get a new Panamera GTS instead of the Cayenne which was originally allocated to us. We got into our Porsches and drove, connected with walkie-talkies, to our first hotel, the Le Meridien in Stuttgart. An essential task for me on this first day of driving is to point out the hidden speed cameras. The traffic, on a Tuesday, in Stuttgart is quite busy, but everyone attended our mandatory drivers' briefing and also received our publication "Driving is Different in Europe" before departing from North America. What a wonderful, enjoyable and rewarding day. Often, I'm asked why I keep doing this in my "retirement?" I answer: "My passion is to share my European

background, travel knowledge, and key PORSCHE contacts to give our customers and PCA members an experience they could never duplicate on their own or with anyone else.” You read Dr. Nick Gabriel’s feedback on the first page of this Petergram.

I could hardly wait for tonight’s celebration. We were fortunate to get reserved tables in the Grandl Loge at the Frühlingsfest – the Stuttgarter beer festival in the spring – which usually is more fun than the one in the fall, after a long winter. An awesome birthday celebration is when 12,000 drunk Germans celebrate by singing “take me home country road” followed by “Happy Birthday” Peter.



On **Wednesday, April 26th** all the large luggage was already loaded by Miro onto our luggage van to be transported straight to today's destination: Lindau on Lake Constance. After everyone checked out, we headed east to the Neckar River and made a right, heading south to the Autobahn A-8. John Horne was driving the Panamera and I was navigating and working the walkie talkie to keep the rest of the team informed and entertained. Everyone got their first taste of the no-speed-limit sections of the Autobahn. After about a half hour we made the first p-stop at the convenient Mühlhausen Autobahn Rest Stop. They now have raised the access to the restrooms to €1 Euro – well worth it. Since typically no one is prepared with Euro change, we have two coin purses with us, so everyone can go to the bathroom – this falls into the category of “we think of everything!” We then entered the Autobahn A-7 to our lunch stop in the Bavarian Alps.



After a scrumptious lunch, instead of taking the shorter country road route to Lindau, I decided to get back on the Autobahn for some more high-speed driving – everybody



loved it. We arrived in Lindau, where everyone's luggage was already waiting in their lake-front rooms for our first night on the road on the Island of Lindau. The night-time view from our windows is amazing. Across the lake you can see the twinkling lights for Austria and Switzerland. We had a great dinner and I

presented my traditional demonstration how Europeans eat, much to the delight of the participants.

On **Thursday, April 27th** the “Traditional” TREFFEN group headed back to Stuttgart to return the cars and head home tomorrow. Dr. Nick Gabriel led the group with our Director of Logistics as the navigator and working the walkie-talkie. The TREFFEN Plus group headed to Lake Como.

Today was a fabulous day. We had a magnificent breakfast with a stunning view of Lake Constance at the five-star hotel on the spectacular island of Lindau. Our Porsches were lined up outside for a spectacular presentation to the locals. Tons of people stop by to take pictures of our departure.

We stopped at the ARAL Gas station before we enter the Autobahn. Three of our group had to head back to Stuttgart as their schedule only permitted the short trip. The rest of us headed into Switzerland driving through some of the most amazing snow-covered peak scenery. We stopped in the Canton of Graubünden in the Charming town of Pflügen. We enjoyed the best lasagna lunch you can imagine, just like Grandma's recipe. The restaurant was opened in 1722 and we sat on the Sun Terrace, surrounded by unequalled scenery. We learned that the **Pflügen Pass** – My favorite pass was opened yesterday. Woohoo!!! So, we immediately took advantage of



this opportunity and headed across the pass. It was unbelievable. 12 feet high snow wall sometimes on both sides and a perfectly dry sunny road.



We came down on the other side in Candennabio and made a quick p-stop. From there it was only about an hour to get to the west side of Lake Como to our magnificent **Grand Hotel Tramezzo**. Of course, the lakeside roads in Italy are not very wide, and sometimes in the little villages we had to squeeze tightly past some very

narrow buildings. I called ahead and the Grand Hotel Tramezzo, their staff and Miro were expecting us. Of course, our luggage was already in our rooms.

We pulled up in front and they immediately took over parking the car. The staff immediately removed our small luggage from our Porsches and our large luggage was already in our rooms delivered by Miro. We were ushered onto a beautiful terrace overlooking Lake Como for Champagne and canapés. We sat there and enjoying the spectacular view, ambiance, and drinks. **To be continued in next week's Petergram.**

III. My Final Thoughts: A TRUE STORY: How is Norma?

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph 's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes,
the operator returned to the phone and said,
"I have good news.
Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well.
Her blood pressure is fine;
her blood work just came back normal, and her physician,
Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said,
"Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried.
God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied,
"You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302.
No one tells me shit."



Please stay healthy, happy and take good care of yourself...Let's look forward to the great times we will have together again on one of our fabulous fun PORSCHE tours this year and help us plan for 2024. **I hope to see y'all soon. Peter**