



Item: Fast Lane News #39 in 2024
(Issue # 239 since 2020) On September 28th, 2024, I'm writing from Room #420 at the Graf Zeppelin Hotel in Stuttgart concluding our fabulous PCA PORSCHE Treffen Tour.

To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!



Subjects: This wonderful little town in the Green Heart of Austria: Mürrzusschlag; Parking; Zell am See; The Interlpen; 50th Anniversary Memories; 2025 Dates; My Final Thoughts: Courtroom Questions

I. Mürrzusschlag: One of the key features which makes our PORSCHE Tours so incredibly special and rewarding, is the “hidden” places we take you to where American Tourists have never been and probably would never find. You meet locals who welcome you into their hearts, share their village with you and extend hospitality you would never find on your own. One



such place is this beautiful little town up in the Steiermark Mountains of Austria.

First mentioned in historic records in 1227, the town now has about 8,000 inhabitants. It's a popular ski resort; has wonderful hiking and bicycle trails and is centrally located in one of the most beautiful regions of Austria. **For me personally**, I have wonderful childhood memories because it's the town where my grandparents lived, my mother was born, and I spent many of childhood summers there, escaping the post-WW II horrors of the then-destroyed Vienna. My grandfather, Florian Schmidt, was drafted into the Kaiser's Military in 1916 and survived WWI and was discharged honorably in 1918. After the war, he became an entrepreneur who opened the first "electric" store in town in the 1920's. The town also had a little tin production mill by the Alpine River Mürz. Then in April 1945, during the horrible WWII, the town was bombed because of the little tin mill and my



grandfather's house, business and livelihood were totally destroyed. There is no insurance in war. Thus, my grandparents then lived in a small 2-room apartment above a garage repair shop. Times were extremely hard – little food, firewood in the winter, sparse medical care and much of the economy was a barter system. Nevertheless, we survived, and I still have fond childhood memories. Yes, that's me at 6 years old dressed in the "jeans of the day" Lederhosen (I'm the blond kid on the left).

I am also very fortunate to have good friends in Mürzzuschlag who have become like family: Gerald and Renate Pairitsch. Gerald is a local police officer and Renate manages the Austrian AAA (ÖAMTC) in town. For both of our 50th Anniversary Trips Gerald arranged a Police Escort into town and a reception with Mayor Karl Rudischer at City Hall. The members of the City Council served us Apple and Apricot Strudel Mit Schlag (with whipped cream) and Coffee. We also stopped at Renate's

impressive Automobile Club where she organized a local musician to entertain us with “steirische” (a type of accordion) music. Enjoy some images from this wonderful visit, on our way to Zell am See, the PORSCHE Family’s hometown. It was an unforgettable experience you could never



duplicate on your own. Of course, we had a police escort front & back into town plus reserved parking on the main street right in the pedestrian zone.



My favorite local police lady: Silvia. I brought her and her colleagues “We Support the Blue” caps from the US which are prized by the Austrian Police. For the 2nd 50th Anniversary trip we were treated to Strudel and Coffee in the Speisewagen of the legendary Südbahn Museum. This little town also has very famous sons like Brahms, Kaplan and the 2004 Literature Nobel Prize winning author Elfriede Jelinek.



I presented Mayor Karl Rudischer with a 50th Anniversary Fast Lane Plaque commemorating his kind opening of the town for us. In return, the Mayor presented each one of us with a hand-signed photo book about his lovely town of Müzzzuschlag. If you are worried that you missed out on this wonderful 50th anniversary trip – not to worry – next year I am conducting a **“Hidden Austria”** Tour which features off-the-beaten-path roads, villages and people you will love to meet. Plus, you will learn the song: “I bin a Steirer Bua . . . “Yes, there’ll be some festive drinking 😊.



The town's police force was wonderful, secured reserved parking and extended amazing hospitality to us.



The entire staff of Renate's local AAA greeted us and gave everyone a cherished ÖAMTC Membership Pin. So, if you ever need help with an automotive problem, directions or vehicle accessories in Austria . . . we've got you covered.



II. Parking . . . My three key elements when traveling with a group of Porsches are: Parking, Peeing and Partaking (in the local cuisine), in that order. 😊 Consequently, wherever we go we have reserved parking such at this beautiful castle on our way to Zell am See – the Porsche Family's Hometown.



III. Zell am See – the PORSCHE Family home town.

Once upon a time in the picturesque town of Zell am See, nestled in the heart of the Austrian Alps, there lived a community with a rich and storied history.



The town of Zell am See has a history that dates back to Roman times, and its origins can be traced to the founding of a village by monks in the 8th century. Over the centuries, Zell am See evolved from a humble village to a bustling market town, and eventually, it became a significant regional center.

Throughout its history, Zell am See faced its share of challenges, including conflicts during the German Peasants' War and occupations by French troops during the Napoleonic Wars. Despite these trials, the resilient inhabitants of Zell am See persevered, and the town continued to thrive.

One of the pivotal moments in the town's development was the opening of the Salzburg-Tyrol Railway line in 1875, which marked the beginning of Zell am See's transformation into a popular summer tourism destination. The town's charm, combined with its breathtaking natural surroundings, attracted visitors from near and far, further fueling its growth and prosperity.

In 1928, Zell am See was granted city rights, cementing its status as a vibrant and thriving urban center.

Today, Zell am See is not only a hub for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers but also a place where history, tradition, and modernity coexist harmoniously. As visitors stroll through the cobbled streets, admire the medieval architecture, and take in the panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and Lake Zell, they can sense the timeless allure of this remarkable town.

Zell am See, is a vibrant vacation destination in the winter because of its wonderful ski slopes, gondolas and chair lifts and the fun apres-ski night life.

The Porsche Family has a beautiful mountain estate there, which includes the Chapel where Ferry Porsche and his wife Dorothea are buried. The Family also owns the Castle Hotel Prielau. Our group was too large to be

accommodated there. I stayed there. It's a magnificent place. The story of Zell am See is a testament to the enduring spirit of its people and the enduring beauty of this enchanting town in the Austrian Alps.

IV. The planned 2025 Fast Lane dates are:

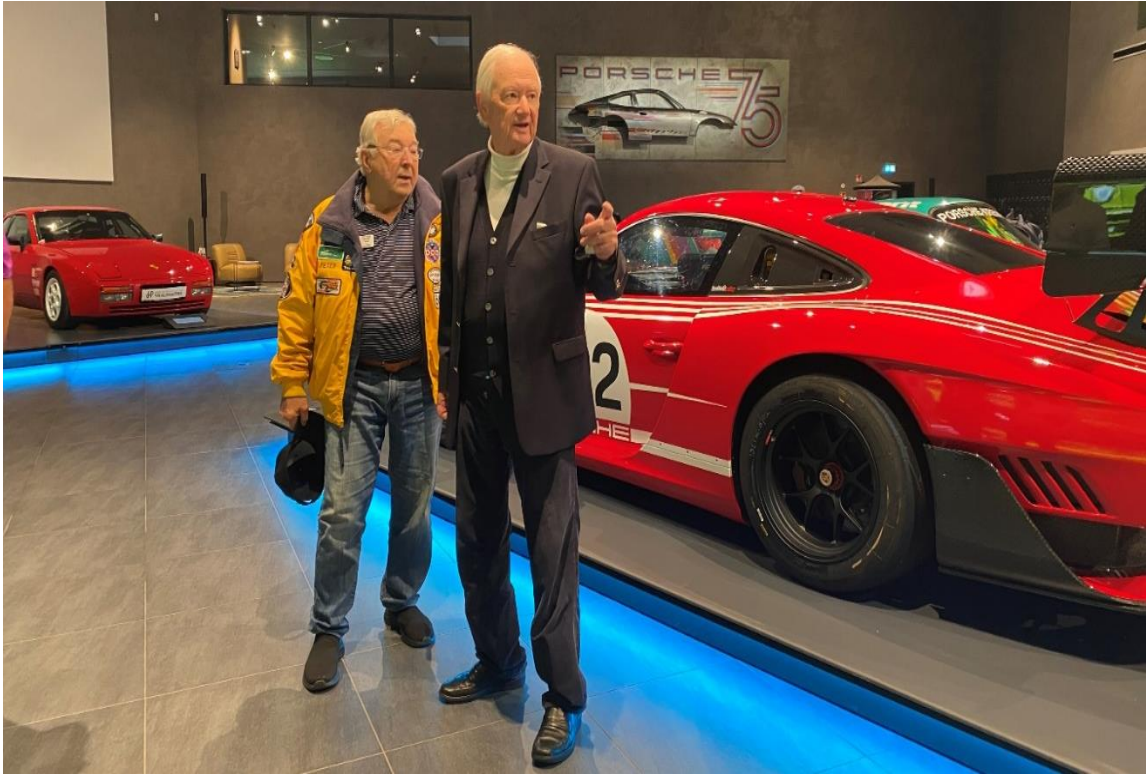
SUN	18-May	FRI	23-May	STR	Fast Lane Spring PORSCHE Fest
SUN	18-May	TUE	27-May	STP	Fast Lane Spring PORSCHE Fest PLUS
FRI	30-May	TUE	10-Jun	AMA	Amazing Hidden Austria - Off the Beaten Tourist Path
SUN	8-Jun	MON	16-Jun	LEM	2025 102nd 24 Hour Le Mans Race
SUN	15-Jun	TUE	24-Jun	FAA	Fast Lane Adrenaline Adventure (TAP)
THU	10-Jul	FRI	18-Jul	COM	USA Colorado Rocky Mountain High
SUN	31-Aug	SAT	13-Sep	FDA	Fast Lane Dolomites & Alps Exclusive PORSCHE Tour
TUE	16-Sep	SUN	21-Sep	FTR	Fast Lane Fall PORSCHE Fest
TUE	16-Sep	WED	24-Sep	FTP	Fast Lane Fall PORSCHE Fest PLUS
TUE	30-Sep	SUN	12-Oct	TPF	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest
THU	23-Oct	THU	30-Oct	SMR	USA 58th Dawsonville, GA Moonshine Festival
FRI	5-Dec	FRI	12-Dec	CHR	Christmas in Vienna, Austria

We are working hard to get the details finalized for our 2025 tours. There are some wonderful surprises planned for our trips in 2025, while maintaining the breathtaking destinations, authentic cuisine, luxurious accommodations, and everything else you expect from Fast Lane Travel. We will keep you updated. Let's save some dates for 2025! You can visit our website, take our Travel Survey, get a Sneak Peek, and vote for your favorite tour for 2025. Just click on the link: [Survey 2025 - Fast Lane Travel](#)

V. SOME MORE OF MY HAPPY MEMORIES from the Fast LaneTravel 50th Anniversary Trips we just completed :



The view from the Porsche Family's Home in Stuttgart.



We had a chance to see the closed-to-the-public private collection of amazing cars accumulated by my friend Hans-Peter Porsche.



Zuffenhausen's Porscheplatz #1 is the place where happiness starts.



After enjoying the Audobon at 226 kmh (140 MPH), we took a break but encountered traffic on a country road in Austria, in the fall, is called “Almabtrieb”. I wish I could include the sound of their bells.

Cooking Lesson: A Schnitzel is not a dish, but the way the meat is cut. Take a Chateaubriand and cut it perpendicularly you’ll get filet mignons. If you cut it horizontally, then it’s called a Schnitzel. When you then add, how it’s prepared, then it becomes a dish, like a Holsteihn-, Jäger-, Natur- or Wiener Schnitzel. Wien is the Austrian word for Vienna and Wien . . .”er” at the end of a noun means it’s from there. Like a meat patty from Hamburg is a Hamburg . . . er. Speaking of Wiener Schnitzel, we had THE most awesome yummi Wiener Schnitzel at the Hotel Sacher. It is always served with a half lemon, little boiled potatoes with parsley and, of course, “Preiselbeeren” = cranberries.



Dessert: Sachertorte mit Schlag with a Cappuccino – it doesn't get better than that.



Except maybe a Fast Lane Travel 50th Annivesary Porsche cake with 14 yummie edible Porsches lined up around the edge, presented to us by the folks in Stuttgart. It was very much appreciated and delicious.



Furthermore, Dr. Blackburn collaborated with the PCA and Fedexed this beautiful award to me in Stuttgart. I am very grateful to Dr. Blackburn, Vu Nguyen and the PCA Executive Council for recognizing my 50 years of dedicated service to the PCA by bringing thousands of PCA members to the source of our passion: Stuttgart

It reads:

“In Recognition of 50 Years of Service We are honored to celebrate and recognize Peter Sontag for his extraordinary dedication, commitment, and loyalty over the past 50 years to the Porsche Club of America and the PCA Treffen program.

Your unwaivering service has been a cornerstone of our success, and your contributions have left an incredible mark on those that have participated in the program and our organization. With deep gratitude, we acknowledge your remarkable journey and Treffen legacy.”

I had invited members of the PCA Executive Council onto the PCA Fall Treffen but their schedule did not allow participation however, we are looking forward to having them in 2025.

I was with 9 determined, US PCA Members at Castle Ludwigsburg, prior to heading over to the Porsche Museum.

Ludwigsburg Palace was built in 1704 is Germany's largest Baroque Palace. Our customers whom have been there have exclaimed that it exceeds Versailles and Schönbrunn in every aspect of its splendor. The PCA Fall Treffen Group enjoyed a guided tour of the palace. Today, it is used for



government functions and trade receptions. In 1993 I attended a world wide tourism conference at the castle along with royal impersonators of King Ludwig and a wonderful performance at the castle theater.



I am planning to meet with the PCA Executive Council after I return in October to present the current status of the PCA Treffen and the future options for the PCA.

VI. My Final Thoughts: Order in the Court.

The following questions were actually asked of witnesses during trials, and in certain cases, the responses given by insightful witnesses. This was recently reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal:

- Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?
- The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?
- Were you alone or by yourself?
- Was it you or your younger brother who was killed in the war?
- Did he kill you?
- How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?
- You were there, up until the time you left, is that true?
- How many times have you committed suicide?
- Q: So, the date of conception (of the baby) was April 8th?
A: Yes
Q: And what were you doing at that time?
- Q: She had three children, right?
A: Yes
Q: How many were boys?
A: None
Q: Were there any girls?
- Q: You say the stairs went down to the basement?
A: Yes
Q: And these stairs, did they go up also?
- Q: Mr. Slatery, you went on a rather elaborate honeymoon, didn't you?
A: I went to Europe, sir.
Q: And you took your new wife?
- Q: How was your first marriage terminated?
A: By death.
Q: And by whose death was it terminated?
- Q: Can you describe the individual?
A: He was about medium height and had a beard.
Q: Was this a male, or a female?
- Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?
A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

- Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?
A: All of my autopsies are performed on dead people.
- Q: All of your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?
A: Oral.
- Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?
A: The autopsy started around 8:30 pm.
Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?
A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.
- Q: You were not shot in the fracas?
A: No, I was shot midway between the fracas and the navel.
- Q: Are you qualified to give a urine specimen?
A: I have been since early childhood.

No further questions your honor.

Please stay healthy and stay young; be 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 PORSCHE Tours this year and let's look forward to 2025. I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. - Peter

