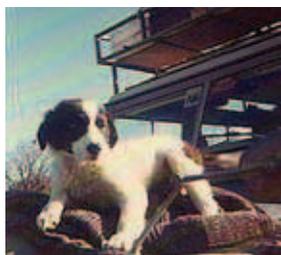


Local Feature

We're all Going on a Summer Holiday (Part 8)



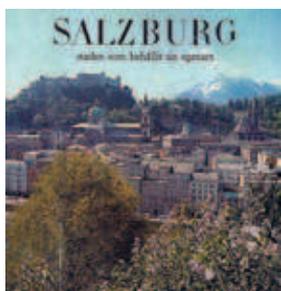
The bedraggled, filthy fourth Dyson was soon a clean, cuddly, beautiful little white dog that Carol named Bel Bel and after a wonderful Christmas 1977 in Istanbul they had visited The Hagia Sophia Museum, The Basilica Cistern and The Blue Mosque, and generally soaked up the atmosphere of this fantastic city founded 1,000 years BC.



In early January 1978 the Dyson Four headed north through Bulgaria to Nis in Yugoslavia (Serbia), known as the crossroads between east (Asia Minor) and west (Central and Western Europe) and the birthplace of Constantine The Great (274-337 AD), the founder of Constantinople (Istanbul today). Then it was on through Yugoslavia, stopping off at Zagreb and Ljubljana, not knowing that in just 14 years' time, this part of Yugoslavia would secede from the rest of the country after a 10-day war and become The Republic of Slovenia, starting the breakup of the country into seven different countries. Everywhere they went they were welcomed, Bel Bel was admired and the Dyson's enjoyed visiting the new places and learning about the various cultures along the way.



It was then into Austria, forever heading north. They stopped a few days at the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Salzburg, a beautiful city 1,400 feet above sea level and bisected by the river Salzach. Now, they were getting closer and closer to Blighty and home. On through West Germany, Belgium and eventually France and the ticket home to Dover – but there was a problem!



Even though Great Britain had joined the European Economic Union five years before and incidentally a 67 per cent majority had voted to remain in the EC/EEC in 1975, which encompassed the free movement of workers between member states, there were still controls on the movement of animals and no pet passports. Consequently, to bring Bel Bel into the UK required a lengthy and expensive period of quarantine.

With this in mind and with a very heavy heart, Carol had to give up Bel Bel. In a lay-by just outside Calais, they offered her, in rather broken French, to a farmer's wife, who accepted this unexpected bundle of joy gleefully. To this day Carol wonders what became of her beloved Turkish stray.

They arrived home with no money and an urgent need to earn some. Carol re-joined 'Woolies' and Graham answered an advert to be a chauffeur for a gentleman who worked in a London shipping office. Had the wanderlust gone? Not on your nelly!

Submitted by Malcolm Stafford (in memory of Graham Dyson)

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