

Les 3 Vallees, France

by George Flournoy and Barb Penkala

"I think we are right here" claimed **Barbara Brescian** as fellow skiers **John Brescian**, **Brent Mc Gibbon**, **Bill Bomberger**, **Don Ballentine** and **Robin Shaw**, eyed the stick man like French language map. Since the area in question covered the sum of all of the ski areas in Colorado it became important to know how to get home!!! Trips back to home base could cover two or three hours of the most scenic skiing imaginable. No one wanted to hitchhike home in the dark, like the two girls did from the ski club located just south of Houston. It was that big. *Size really does matter.* This was our introduction to skiing on the *Texas Ski Council Trip to Les 3 Vallees, France.*

The International trips seem to take on a flavor of their own. For the most part everyone is a very experienced,

"Deshabiea Tiou M a i n t n a n t" (Translation: Please, disrobe now). Roger was also seen wearing a sign. "Will sleep around for change, Merci Bon Coupe" Rumor has it that he ended up owing money.

So with this **EXPERIENCED** group of travelers

why did **Don Ballentine** get his luggage thrown off of the plane? And what about **Tommy Thompson** and **Patty Baker**? Tommy claimed that his boarding passes were HIJACKED prior to arriving at the gate. The gate attendant would not let



them board until the missing passes were found. So, the gate attendant performed a magic trick; she waved her magic wand over their ticket envelope and s o o o o ... t h e boarding passes m y s t e r i o u s l y appeared. Of course there is always the administrative snafu, so **Gene Soo**

Alex Krawtzow, a near first-time skier, went to Meribel for some good green runs to practice before taking a private lesson. Last heard, Alex may have twist i his knee – but the real skinny is that we think he just boogied too much. Speaking of injuries **Ace Skier Martha Davenport** tore her ACL on the upper part of a run. It



independent traveler. So half of the group left Houston with ATC **Barb Penkala** a few days prior to the main trip for some site seeing in Europe. **Gai Lynn Marshall**, **Nelson Messinger** and **Elizabeth Scarborough** headed for Lyon to dine in the finest restaurants and shop for silk, while the rest of the group headed for Paris. **Joe Walker** joined the Paris group from 8 days in Scotland, England and Holland. **Bruce and Marsha Kilgore** had been in Paris for a few days prior to our arrival, and they scoped out all the hot spots in town. They led a group to the wild performances at world famous **Moulin Rouge** and **The Crazy Horse Saloon** where **Bill Kirk** learned the meaning of detante as in de tante touch!!! **Brenda Reusser** helped us all in learning the French language, most of it not printable here. **Roger Holzman's** first French words were

a.k.a - **Eugene Soo** (official name) had to cunningly convince customs and immigration that he was not a notorious international crime figure since his is real name was not "Gene" but nevertheless, they still made him ship separately his trusty pocket knife.

Sean O'Brian is still upset for not getting both he and the Eiffel Tower in one picture. So Sean, next time try for the \$10.99 camera. Perhaps everything will fit in the viewfinder if you step up to a "big money camera". **Bill Spenny** was on a mission to get some



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is only speculative that after the accident **Denis Davenport** made her ski another 200 meters. Rumor aside, we are all glad that Heroine **Charlene Fleming** was along to assist with the skis and give aid and comfort. If any one should have received aid and comfort it was **Mike Fleming**. Both he and Charlene travel very lightly. These two are truly minimalists when it comes to luggage. So when half of the group's luggage did not arrive, guess whose luggage could not be found for an extra day. Never fails. Skiing with this group, the balance of the week, was no other than **Kurt Schidlowski** aka "**The Goldslager Kid**". Kurt brought his cousin from Munich along. Even though Cousin **Klaus Sterma** could not ski due to a leg injury, Kurt always managed to entice Klaus to supply and carry food up the mountain for lunch.



Both **Karen Schidlowski** and **Honey Sterma** quickly admit to being related to **Kurt ONLY BY MARRIAGE!!!**

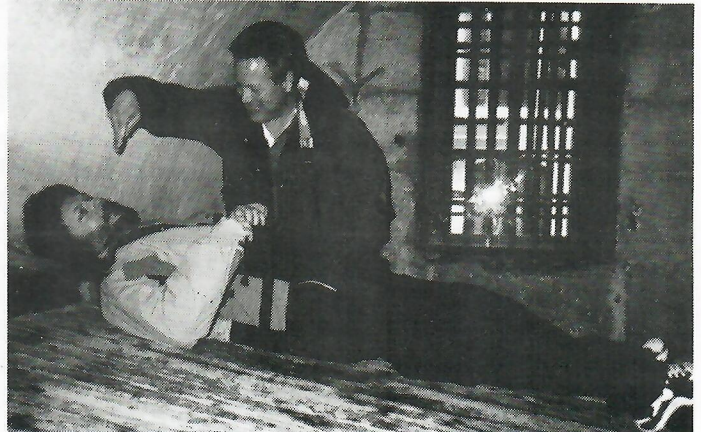
Warren Schroeder showed his true talent as a film maker....as in photographing every beautiful girl in sight. However, a beautiful policewoman challenged his camera talent on the streets of Lyon. So Warren, tell the truth, it really was the handcuffs that you liked, wasn't it? **Joe Kulpinsky** acted as the pathfinder in Brides delighting everyone with his uncanny ability to find great restaurants. New members **Sue Bean** and her cousin from California **Cathy Littell** joined the group for their inaugural SCSC trip.

What great new members!!! Just don't offer to carry their luggage!!! If there is ever an award for effervescence in this club it should go to **Carmen Mikhail** and **Gloria Lopez**. Throughout the trip they kept everyone entertained and informed. Trusting friends **Eric and Carol Timmreck** joined with these two world travelers to jointly gallivant around Paris together. None of the four admit to anything. Suspicious behavior at best!!!

Linda Day did indeed save the day by helping everyone with her wonderful extent of the French language. On the last day she told all of the weather hesitant skiers, that she spoke with a Frenchman who described the conditions on top as clear. She must have forgotten to translate the phrase "clear as mud". It was a good thing that **Margaret Walker** was along to take up for her!!!

The TSC hosted a great party ending at 2:00 a.m. Several trip members had to catch a three a.m. bus to Geneva. (Party straight to the bus).

But not **Paul Ginzburg** and **Olga Krivosheina** and the **Ryvkin's**, **Alex and Maria**, they were clever and departed early missing the festivities. One who did not miss the party was none other then **Anne Flournoy**. Formerly known by her alias as the "*party puppy*" after her continuous photo snapping at the party, with a broken nose, inflicted on the first run of the first



day, she is now known in France as **Les Catue "P"** or the four P's. AKA, "Pug, the Poperatzi Party Puppy".

A TC could never ask for a *finer group to travel with*. **Thanks everyone.....** **Juan Claude Jorge!!!**