

# Day Dreamers Square Dance Club on Tour October 2018



## My Adventure With The Day Dreamers - Part Two - Two Years Apart:

### Preface:

This is the tour that everyone was looking forward to, they were kept on the move, and a great time was had by all in attendance. The weather was perfect all weekend long. Meals were excellent at every stop and the people we met were wonderful. It was a once in a lifetime deal, moments to treasure for sure. Our bus driver was safety conscience at all times.

Half way through the journey, I got to know him much better, as he helped my weak link self to gain comfort that he didn't have to do – my hats off to him. We all thank and respect him, and we know he had an excellent time. I enjoyed our time together.

### Day One - Friday:

Left the house at 8:00 on the dot. Bus arrived at 8:20 right on time and it was already 30 people full. Elke and I got front row seats right behind the driver. One hour into our trip we stopped for a bathroom break and a very nice breakfast in the parking lot, provided by the club's host and hostess. Thank you both very much! On the road again with a new driver behind the wheel, we made up for lost time. Pure blue sky filled our entire day's events.

We arrived around 12:00 noon at Bad Wildungen and unloaded from our fantastic bus and entered a great big culture building. A huge sheet of running water, flowing down the two story high bank of windows, at different speeds and textures causing the overall visual effects before our eyes - so hypnotizing! Very impressive, a brilliant art work - within the outside environment as its backdrop.



In the Middle of the traditional Kurpark is the Wandelhalle with its “historical pump room” and the place where you are able to drink many different types of spring water. The building itself was erected in the Hellenistic style in 1929 which includes a museum that explains the history of this “Spa-Resort” through the ages. This also includes “the historical night-watch-man and “the amazing washer-woman”.

The famous “Wildungen’s mineral springs” have been well known and very much appreciated since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The town was first documented around the year 800, and then received its town charter in 1242. Then as is now called “spa-town”. It was given the title of “Bad-Spa” in 1906 and it still carries that healthy and charming atmosphere of a very respected “health resort” and vacation destination for tourists.

The spa-facilities are also located in Reinhardshausen that belongs to the town of Bad Wildungen. These proven therapies treat kidney, bladder, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Also helping cases of rheumatology, orthopedics – beauty care and wellness issues.

Now we continue our tour, for an extensive hike through the park in order to reach the other side and the inner city. To find a place for lunch ... well at least a coke-a-cola – a cold beer and a little wine for the lady with us “Tina”. Then onto another restaurant nearby for a real “show down”. After this extravaganza, we walk to their hotel where we are all staying for two nights and three days. Finally we settle into our nice rooms. About hour later we once again board the tour bus and head for the venue where this mighty little troupe of “Day Dreamers” will join up with another Square Dance Group called “The Teddy Bears”. To which I soon learned, were 100% female with no male square-dancers in their club.

The Teddy Bears welcomed all of us with open arms, a smile and love in their hearts. The food was delicious and the company splendid. A great time was had by everyone and then we returned to our hotel – all semi-exhausted – but one last party on the roof before saying good-night. This is one feisty crew trust me on this! They had a reserve of energy that I lacked, so I sat this one out.



## Day Two - Saturday:

Breakfast – enough food to feed the god's – “Ambrosia” for the hungry masses. Anything you want, it was here for the asking. Then back on the tour-bus to start another day's activities.

9:30 am. Pack it up and ride. Off to the “Tree Top Walk”. Arrived at 10:15 ... and they returned at 11:15, then we are off to another walk, this time around the reservoir top – 12:00 to 2:00. This included square dancing alongside the bridge.



This was followed by a boat-ride on what was once a gigantic man-made lake, but is now little more than an embarrassing, enlarged, duck pond. The water had dropped over 30 meters, this after an extremely year-long draught, the worst in German history since centuries. You used to be able to board the boat directly across from the parking lot, because they were both on the same level. But these days, passengers need to walk down to the boat that is about 100 yards lower than ever before. Gabi reports that the coffee and especially the cake were excellent. Says Susanne she was proud to do some sun-bathing on the top level roof area of the large tour boat.

The next stop is off to another German castle to have a look around and enjoy another experience. As Elke and I remain on the bus this time around. We look forward to their report.



The main area that we are in is called Kellerwald. The Kellerwald with its rural surroundings cover an area of over 120 square km of unspoiled beech forest that also includes more than 500 km of pristine hiking and nature trails.

And here started the story of snow white: This is the “DWARVEN HOME of SNOW WHITE and HER SEVEN DWARF’S: The Grimm Fairy Tale is Walt Disney’s very first animated feature.

Released December 21, 1937. Jealous of Snow White’s beauty, the wicked queen orders the murder of her innocent step-daughter, but later discovers that Snow White is still alive and well, and hiding in a cottage with seven friendly little dwarf miners. Disguising herself up as an ugly hag, the queen brings a poisoned apple to Snow White, who falls into a death-like sleep that can only be broken by a kiss from a prince. The prince sees Snow White in her glass coffin comes over to her, instantly falls in love with her, upon being enchanted with her beauty. He kisses her, she awakens and is in love with him as well.

Story by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm

The Walt Disney feature film is the tenth highest grossing film of all time.

The story of the magic mirror:

Though more of a magician’s trick than any magic – the magic mirror was in fact a real thingt. The mirror talked back thanks to “acoustic manipulation effects” instead of any magic being involved. The mirror was more of a toy than a looking glass as it reverberated thus giving the lookers words back to her ... giving the appearance / illusion that the mirror could speak. The mirror was constructed in 1720 and resides in Lohr castle that’s now a museum. Lohr was known for its glass-works and also for its poison that’s called “nightshade” that grows so abundantly in this region.

About the real SNOW White:

Margaretha grew up in Waldeck, Germany and her beauty attracted “The prince of Spain” but never got her “fairy tale ending”. She was age 17 when she moved to Brussels because of her step mother and it is here where Phillip II of Spain saw her for the first time and decided to marry her. But Prince Phillip’s father was the Holy Roman Emperor and didn’t support this union. At the age of 21 Margaretha suddenly died from a mysterious illness and history points to the Emperor as her killer. The marriage was seen as inconvenient and she was dealt with in a way that made it appear to look like suicide. Given her shaky hand-writing towards the end of her life, was indicative of tremors caused by being poisoned. Her mother was already dead by the time Margaretha fell ill. She died before the Prince could make her a princess. Snow White was based on her life and the truth came to light in 1994.

By scholar Eckhard Sander. He says, she had blonde hair, and was poisoned. The Grimm brothers also said Snow White had blonde hair.

About the real Dwarfs:

In this particular area, young boys were put to work in the metal mines. All fed poorly, treated badly and used as child labor, very over-worked in general. The lack of good nutrition was enough to stunt their growth and make them life-long dwarfs. They worked in the copper mines, tin mines, coal mines. They wore bright colored hats, so that in case of cave collapse they could be easily found. The real dwarfs were heard singing coming and going from the mines. Some mines were discovered in 1440, German town of Altenberg – “Tin Mines”.

Copper production in Chile – made in Germany. Germany, The Resolution Copper Mine is 1.3 miles underground. The region of Germany where the smallest tunnels of the mines were located within “The Seven Mountains” and thus could only be accessed by small statured persons. (Little Children / Little Adults).

Post Script:

While in Waldeck, “a man was arrested for selling poison apples to children”. Also, let it be known that the real Snow White story was not intended for children at all. It is a really long story, which I will end here, so as not to bore you, but what an eye opener. In conclusion I say, “I didn’t know that”.

Dinner banquet room for thirty one people and two dogs:

8:30 reservation...Everyone's ready for good food and community: The waitress was the same one we had the evening before, she had a good sense of humor and the patience of a saint. She is working the entire dining room, not just our crazy crew. A fifteen minute wait and then our drinks are ordered. Another 30 minute wait. Second round ordered and a 45 minute wait. Then our meal orders are taken. The point is we are very much delayed by about one and a half hours.

So, as time goes by, the volume level rises, stories and jokes are told, and friendly fun picking on each other ensues. The noise level is like that between a German football championship final, or a Christmas get together at the home of the clinically deranged, with high energy and great passion. As the conversations are all over the place, at times so out of control that the waitress could not even be heard over the roar. Finally the food is delivered, slowly but in a steady fashion. Another hour passes.

Entertainment time - duo needs a name:

After dinner we amused ourselves, with singing Jingle Bells, Happy Birthday, and German songs filled the air. Our entertainment duo did a good job playing guitar and I think it's about time that the need a name

I start there for options:

1. The Dinner For One Combo
2. Fish and Chips
3. Sauerkraut Deluxe
4. Pork and Beans
5. Two Men / Two Guitars
6. Curley and Jethro
7. Uncle Ben's Boogie
8. White On Rice
9. Acoustic Altitude
10. Sunny Day Blues

For Two ... my other three choices were already taken.

Bullinamingvase – Ummagumma – Dharma For One ... Two in this case.

They did a great job, an audience favorite, and always fun.

After this, all back to the hotel. Singing an end to the second day lullaby and sleep!



### Day Three - Sunday:

Breakfast 8:00 – Great as usual. Pack up things in our room and get on the bus 9:30. Next stop “The Crooked House – That’s Upside-Down” – arrived at 9:45 am. Elke got some good photos of this very unique house of “Art” and “Wonder” I call it. So, what do square dancers do at a crazy place like this? What else, dance on the lawn outside the house in total joy.



Then we loaded up the bus once again and headed for another castle at 11:00 am until 12:30. To the castle Friedrichstein and here we walked past nice old houses with interesting phrases carved into the woodwork. In the castle we found a beautiful café and a gift shop featuring crafts for the ladies to enjoy for the “house and garden”. Our excellent tour guide explained the entire history of the castle and mentioned that right here was the beginning of the fairy tale of Snow White, as I mentioned above. On the terrace we had a cup of coffee and cake and enjoyed the great view over-looking the historic town of Bad Wildungen. We spent over an hour just relaxing and talking before returning to the bus.

Welcome to the Pancake House – 1:00 to 2:30:

So many choices, so much to eat – can’t decide? Food or something sweet? The place is packed full tourist, bikers, locals, strangers, you name it they’re here. It’s like McDonalds on a school snow day. Service was excellent, so was the food.



### A Message of Praise:

To sincerely thank those responsible for the planning and arranging of this entire trip. From beginning to end the whole event went perfectly. It didn’t happen all by itself, it took many months and a great deal of hard work and effort to make it happen. I’m so impressed and proud. You have my deep respect. I’m also sure that I can speak for every one of the “Day Dreamers” on this sentiment.

Many thanks for allowing me to tag along once again.

My pleasure to write this review for all of you – I hope you enjoyed it.

Yours Truly,

Dave and Elke Willey