

An Excerpt from our Trip to Azerbaijan in 2008

This article is intended to be a short portion of the trip that Marilyn and I took as a gift from our Aunty Florence Markin (deceased) which was a birthday present from her son Allan Markin. She decided to take some of her relatives which in addition to Marilyn and I included:

- Lloyd Morozoff (nephew)
- Patricia Markin (Daughter-in-law)
- Jane Markin (grand daughter)
- Doris Thesenvitz (niece)
- Erna Dreger

We toured firstly Azerbaijan, followed by Georgia and Armenia over a period of 17 days in the Spring of 2008.

This excerpt is from the capital city of Azerbaijan, Baku, where we visited an open-air large Bazaar that perhaps had over 100



booths with



everything from hanging sheep carcasses to vegetables and many rugs and jewellery as shown in these photos. We were all driven to this location on a



tour bus complete with two tour guides that spoke, Azeri, English and Russian. The bus also had a group



of eight (8) Americans that completed our total tour group.

We were cautioned not to “stray” too far as tourism was still a new event for Azerbaijan and not everyone understood English. The Tour Guides did

not know that Marilyn and I spoke Russian which is a language that was being avoided in that country since the breakup of the USSR. Russians were not popular and the youth were taught and encouraged to speak Azeri.

Marilyn was immediately attracted to a booth where a lady was sorting and displaying jewelry. There was an abundance of various types and so Marilyn became absorbed as the lady continued to bring out more and more of her stock.

Her husband was pacing around and providing advice to his partner as well as keeping a close watch for obvious reasons, but Marilyn was the only potential customer at that time.

Then Marilyn and I heard the man confide to his partner as follows:

“Она собачье дерьмо” or directly translated at “she is dog shit”

Obviously, he recommended that his partner not spend too much time as no sales would result and he was sure we were Americans and would not understand what he said.

Marilyn and I were both taken aback but neither of us responded but would have liked to surprise him with:

“Я надеюсь, что ваш пенис высохнет” or directly translated as “I hope that your penis dries up”

We both laughed as we returned to the bus as we were sure the man and woman would have been shocked but perhaps, we had acted peacefully in an international environment.

When we returned to the bus, we shared our experience with our guide who sported a PhD and with a “straight face” suggested that the statement by the man could have several meanings.

We laughed and countered with Dog Shit is really Dog Shit and we understand the meaning very well.



This photo of Baku is much different from what the Traders encountered during the time that Baku was on the “Silk Road” to China.

There are many stories that I can share at another time, regarding our travels.

Written by EWW December 10, 2023.

