

2002 SOMSEN WORLD WIDE REUNION IN BALDWIN, WISCONSIN USA*By Marilyn (Berkseth) Olson-Lear [3850]*

Mark your calendar. Save your guilders and dollars. Come to the second Somsen World Wide Reunion in Baldwin, Wisconsin USA.. Baldwin is the home of clog-maker Jan Hendrik Somsen (1850-1929) and his wife Janna Hendrika Rauwerdink (1856-1943) who emigrated to Baldwin in 1881 with their three children. The oldest of these three children, Wilhelmina Hendrika (1878-1957) [320] is my maternal grandmother.

The dates for the reunion are Saturday, **August 3 and Sunday, August 4, 2002**, with the evening of **Friday, August 2** available for a meeting of early arrivals. The Satur

day meeting will be held at the Baldwin American Legion Club and Millpond Park with a catered picnic lunch at noon and a dinner that evening. The Sunday meeting and meal will be held at the Coachman Supper Club in Baldwin, where Jerry Somsen, son of Donald and Irene Somsen, is the banquet food manager.

The dates and places of the reunion are firm, but the activities are tentative and being planned. We hope that the Somsen Foundation can provide a program on genealogy and family history. If there is interest, we can arrange a tour of Somsen heritage locations - Somsen home farm, Somsen Baldwin house, cemetery, and church - and places of interest in the Baldwin area - 1500 cow computerized dairy farm, buffalo farm, small factories, cheese factory, underground cave with stalactites and stalagmites.

For those who have more time for touring, the Mall of America, Mississippi River trips, and St Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota are within one hour drive from Baldwin.

Baldwin has facilities for sleeping and eating and transportation to and from Twin Cities International Airport. A shuttle bus or rented car will take you from the airport to Baldwin in about one hour. We have a Super 8 Motel with 61 rooms and an Americ Inn with 65 rooms, located near to the Coachman Supper Club.

Each motel has an indoor pool and whirlpool, standard rooms and suite rooms, and provides breakfast. In addition to the Coachman Supper Club and in the same area, meals are available at McDonalds, Dairy Queen, A & W, Hardees, Subway, and Ray's Allnight Truck Stop.

I'll personally make Theo (227) some strong coffee, which I also prefer rather than the weak "church coffee", as he reported in the Somsen

Horizon, Volume 2, Number 4, November 1999 that Americans drink weak coffee.

Baldwin is a town of about 3,000 people, small factories and large dairy farms, and a DeZwaan style windmill as its tourist and visitors center. It was originally a rural community of family farms with the ethnic background of the original residents equally divided between Dutch and Norwegian heritage. Now many people are of mixed heritage, and live here but work in St Paul and Minneapolis.

We invite you to visit a small midwest community in the western side of Wisconsin USA, near the twin cities of St Paul and Minneapolis.

The registration fee for the Somsen Reunion 2002 to be held in Baldwin, Wisconsin USA is **\$ 60**. This fee pays for morning coffee, lunch, dinner, and the programs on Saturday, August 3 and for church service, noon brunch, and the program on Sunday, August 4.

Fifty motel rooms have been reserved in Baldwin and another fifty rooms reserved within twenty miles of Baldwin. The cost of these rooms is \$ 75 to \$ 80 per night and includes a light breakfast.

A letter giving specific information and a registration form will be mailed to you soon.

We look forward to seeing many family members. ■



Welcome in Baldwin