

**MOTHER'S DAY 2001***By Theo Somsen [227]*

Sometimes everything in life seems to fit perfectly well for a very short time.

I had this experience when my wife Josette [394] and I paid a short visit to our son Marnix [228] and his wife Alette [3757].

Parents (-in-law) do this more often of course, but not if you first have to fly thousands of miles as in our case to New York.

It was the beginning of May and we enjoyed The Big Apple and their fine apartment in Battery Park City with a view of Manhattan, the Hudson River, Miss Liberty and... Ellis Island!

What a surprising emotion that in 2001 your son lives on a short view of the site where some destitute Somsens arrived in the second half of the nineteenth century.

And then, one day later, shambling though the fascinating Guggenheim Museum (just the very building itself is amazing!) you are suddenly standing face to face with the editor of *Somsen Horizon*, Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53], her husband Jan [679] and the Marstellos, her host-family. How is this possible?

Please read page 17 for more details.

Then it was Sunday and we went out again.

This time to the little village of Sparta in New Jersey, situated at about an hour's drive to the northeast of New York. Here too live some relatives we had already met at the Reunion in 1997: Jeanne Connell-Somsen [2356] and her husband Richard Connell [2375].

They moved there quite recently, are very pleased with their place and we also found it very beautiful. But what appeared to be the matter? It was Sunday, May 13, and that is both in The Netherlands and in the USA Mother's Day! Surprise, for because of that we not only met their kind daughters Megan [2376] and Katie [2377] but also Jeanne's mother: Janet Somsen-Flaskamp [2324] who, 86 years old, is still the personification of vitality. A mother to be proud of and of course her children and grandchildren are very proud of her!

We enjoyed their hospitality very much and indeed: *Sometimes everything in life seems to fit perfectly well for a very short time.* ■

*I-r: Richard Connell [2375], Janet Somsen-Flaskamp [2324], Jeanne Connell-Somsen [2356], Katie Connell [2377], Megan Connell [2376]*