



# Somsen horizon

*Volume 10 - number 20 - November 2007*

## Reunion-special: in full colour

Everything about the 2007 Reunion  
like:

- ◆ *The Roots of every Somsen lie in the Swamp*
- ◆ *What a family we have!*
- ◆ *Photo Reportage*
- ◆ *We are longing for more!*
- ◆ *Nineteen Days in the Netherlands*
- ◆ *Three Twins at the Reunion*
- ◆ *The Big Somsen Game*



*Half-yearly  
familymagazine*

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**Objective of the Foundation**

*The aim of the foundation is:*

To preserve and promote the solidarity between people bearing the family name of Somsen, those who are/were related to them or those who are interested in them.

*The foundation will try to archieve this object for example by:*

- ♦ doing historical research into the family history and the history of the region
- ♦ collecting documentation and genealogical data
- ♦ keeping and taking charge of a family archive and data bases
- ♦ publishing a periodical
- ♦ providing information to persons, institutions and official authorities
- ♦ organising activities so as to realise the object of the foundation

**Cover:**

*Under the Somsen-lime tree at Japikshuis*





## Preface

*At this very moment you are holding a very special edition of Somsen Horizon: the 20<sup>th</sup> edition!*

*In the nearly ten years of the existence of our family foundation we have been able to keep you informed quite regularly about the numerous events in present and past of our widespread family.*

*A very special highlight this year was the reunion in August. Therefore this reunion will dominate this special issue for the greater part.*

*When we had our final meeting just before the reunion to dot our i's and cross our t's the only item on the agenda was the reunion. I must admit that we were a bit nervous about a successful outcome. Meanwhile we have had another meeting in which we have discussed the reunion at great length and we may conclude that we can look back with great satisfaction. From this place I would like to thank everybody who put their shoulder to the wheel very much. Without the work and dedication of many volunteers it would not have been possible to organize an event like this. But I also have nothing but praise for all the participants. I especially like to pause to consider how a very large group of foreign Somsens - about 60 – took the trouble to make that far journey. The group from the USA and Canada was numerous*



*and from what I learned they have enjoyed every bit of the long journey they made.*

*The future of our family foundation does not look that gloomy in spite of the fact that we had some worries about its continued existence from time to time. At the very reunion a fairly large group of mostly young people (many from overseas) got together to make plans for the next*

*reunion in America and the very fact that there were so many youngsters who visited the reunion anyway gives good hope for the future.*

*In the following issue of our magazine there will be more news about our future plans, but I will lift a corner of the veil now: in the new year we will have a somewhat rejuvenated board; all the posts will be manned. We are only looking for someone who is interested in assisting our present genealogist.*

*Now I wish you lots of pleasure reading and viewing this issue. I do hope that the pictures and stories will revive the reunion and that they will call back many pleasant memories.*

*On behalf of the board,  
Johan Somsen*

### *The Somsen People*

#### *Memorial poem by Hendrik-Jan Lammers (inhabitant of the Somsenhouse)*

*The Somsen people gathered together here, have arrived in great numbers,  
to be present at this celebration, they have come from all over the world.*

*It was not only from Europe that inquisitive Somsen descendants came over to be present at the reunion.*

*The list of Somsens is very long and very extensive, organizing such an event is no sinecure.*

*But they are inspired people and they are always prepared to try hard  
and the results are visible; it has become a great spectacle.*

*And now you are here together at this historic site,  
On which there was a Somsen cradle 400 years ago.  
In a little, humble cottage at the bottom of the farmland of IJzerlo,  
it used to be wet and swampy there; reeds and rushes covered the place.*

*The cottage had a name as was the custom in the Achterhoek,  
this old little cottage was called "Sumpsstedeken".  
The name of this house developed into the family name Somsen,  
but that took many years, yes, even a few centuries.*

*In the early days life was poor and hard and people had to toil,  
until a member of the family saw a bright spot.  
Somsen people have always liked to pioneer,  
if necessary also abroad,  
so they emigrated long ago after some letter writing and deliberation.*

*We know from ancient records that one Somsen said good-bye to IJzerlo  
and left the "Japikshuis" together with his family in 1851.  
And 30 years after that there was a Somsen at the "Pakkebie" farm,  
who did not see a future here either.*

*And left for America which was the land of promises,  
the important question is always if they really found the prosperity  
so much desired.  
In the course of many years Somsens spread all over the world,  
but they always remembered where the first Somsen cradle stood.*

*All the Somsen descendants can be a witness now,  
where their forefathers toiled and laboured but also enjoyed life.  
Here at the place of the "Sumpsstedeken" stands the old Somsenhouse now  
and the present occupants, though advanced in years,  
feel much at home here.*

*But the time will come that they also have to leave this lovely place,  
but we hope there will be new occupants of the Somsenhouse.  
After this happening everybody will return home,  
hopefully satisfied,  
and then these kinsman will say:  
"Thank you, farewell, so long, good-bye !!!"*

# The roots of every Somsen lie in the swamp

*adapted by Theo Somsen [227]*

***When you were born a Somsen you know one thing for sure: your roots lie in the swamps of IJzerlo. Wherever on earth you live, your strain will always lead back to the Somsen-huus. This weekend hundreds of Somsens will get together there.***

## A race as strong as iron

A characteristic of the widespread Somsen race is as simple as this: they are all a bit stubborn. "Well", says Johan Somsen, "they are all, let's say, rather self-willed creatures. They know very well what they want and they will do their utmost to achieve their goals."

Material proof of this persistent perseverance will be produced this weekend in and around IJzerlo. In that charming hamlet near Aalten hundreds of people from all over the world will come together for a very special event. They have one thing in common: their family-name Somsen.

This will be the third reunion of this strong Somsen race. In 1997 they had their first reunion. Also here: far away in the Achterhoek. The second one was five years ago, way down in Baldwin, WI.

A substantial branch of the big Somsen family lives in this American state.

## Stickers

Somsens are stickers. This may be concluded from the single fact that they have had a solid organization for about ten years that takes care of the communication in the worldwide Somsen community. The Somsen Foundation has an enthusiastic board that looks after the genealogy, the organization of "family-parties" and the publication of a family magazine "Somsen Horizon". In this magazine you can find the facts of this family, stories about personal adventures and accurate news of the civil registration.

"The Foundation", chairman Johan says, "is an absolute success. Has been so for years. A Somsen is proud of his ancestry and, as a result, he is excessively interested in the history of his family."

There has been a great deal of historiography. On the occasion of the first reunion an impressive book was published. In two languages, so that also Somsens from overseas could read it. And there is a website: [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)

## The IJzerlo swamp

The historical explorations concentrate on one fact in the end: the cradle of the van de forefather of all Somsens stood in IJzerlo. And the house, at Westendorpweg 6, where in 1630 the cradle of Geert Somsen stood, is still there. Four centuries ago it was very wet in those parts.

Hence the name: the "Sumpen", "Zompen" or German "Sumpf"; the roots of every Somsen lie literally in the swamps of IJzerlo.

The voluntary diaspora of the descendants of Geert Somsen took the following generations to the far corners of the earth. They can be found in at least fifteen countries, but the largest branches can be found in Wisconsin (USA), Germany, Portugal and of course in The Netherlands. Many remained true to The Achterhoek, other people moved to other parts of the country but have honoured their ties with IJzerlo near Aalten.

## Emotion and gin

Johan Somsen, 63, a retired English teacher: "We count a strikingly large number of people in education and science. But also in the artistic field there are some prominent Somsens."

When this weekend the hundreds of participants of the third Somsen Reunion will stay at or near the riding-school "De Achterhoek" there will be an emotional highlight, the chairman says.

The company will be welcomed by the present occupants of the "cradle" of the family, Hendrik-Jan Lammers and his wife Truida. Hendrik-Jan, 85, has a special and warm place in the Somsen community. Though he is no Somsen by birth, still he is considered one of them. At the Somsen-huus a commemorative plaque will be dedicated and a special poem, written by Hendrik-Jan on this occasion, will be recited. Subsequently the Somsens will prove at the lime-tree at the Japikshuis in IJzerlo that they are not averse to silly tradition. From this farmhouse the first Somsen descendant left for Wisconsin and the Somsens simply have to sprinkle this lime-tree every year. With gin!



**Hendrik-Jan and Truida Lammers-Prinzen in front of their Somsenhouse**

(photo: Michel Beskers - De Gelderlander)



**The Somsen lime-tree at the Japikshuis**

(photo: Michel Beskers - De Gelderlander)

# What a family we have !

*impressions of Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]*

## Sun-drenched

It was a bright Saturday morning that 18th of August when the many guests of the reunion crowded toward the large new riding hall in IJzerlo for the Third Somsen Reunion. The venue is absolutely unique, surrounded by green fields, where beautiful horses graze with a foal in their midst. Large groups of trees and lanes lined with tall oak-trees with rustic picnic benches, which the noble heads of horses look upon from inside their stables. Nearby you'll find the beautiful and hospitable farmhouse of Eddy and Alice Sticker. Next to it there is the pleasant camping site full of Somsens in tents and caravans, who had come to prepare quarters on Friday or even before.

I repeat: a unique environment.



**Riding-school  
"De Achterhoek"**

## A very warm reception

The covered riding-school had been transformed into an invitingly large congress room. It must have been "all hands on deck", with enormous creativity and effort. And they had thought of practically everything. A stage with light, sound and images, ornamentation everywhere, plenty seats, high tables to create conversation space, room for expositions and even a kindergarten. All arriving family-members were greeted with happy enthusiasm: three kisses, embraces, oohs and aahs were sent flying as well as "It's been a long time...". All guests were presented nametags and Somsen-buttons and also vouchers for coffee. Passing into the great hall everyone got a cup of coffee and a large slice of "krentenwegge", the traditional currant bread. Over 250 guests had come from everywhere. From Canada, the USA, from Switzerland, Germany, England and all regions of The Netherlands. Middle-aged Somsens, elderly people, youngsters, even a pretty baby in a pram.

## A hearty welcome

We then heard the amplified, deep voice of Johan Somsen [1089], our chairman, who expressed a sincere welcome in English. This was directly translated into Dutch by Theo Somsen [227], board member and editor-in-chief. It was a splendid duet and everyone felt more than welcome.

"A reunion that we will celebrate in the place where our roots lie. We are gathered here because we are all descendants of one common ancestor: Roelof Boeinck from the *Sumpstedeke*, the Somsen-house, near here. There our distant ancestor was born in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At that place we are going to have a short meeting in a solemn atmosphere." And so we did, in the afternoon, after we had enjoyed the morning-programme.

The Big Somsen Game provided us with a lot of laughter and lunch was tasteful, both outdoors and inside the hall.

## Commemorative plaque, balloons and gin

At the Somsen-house we have revealed a nice commemorative plaque and the countless red, white and blue balloons that were released had to spread the good news. The *Somsen lime-tree* at the Japikshuis wasn't forgotten either. We all gathered around it, some fine words were spoken to commemorate the first emigrants who left from there, and it was sprinkled with Dutch gin. Well, it wasn't just the tree that got the gin. A small boy had a glass with some, too. "You don't have to drink it", someone said. "No, it's for the tree", he replied earnestly. And he carefully poured it over the tree's roots.



**Dutch gin (Jenever)**



### Taking a breather

An animated get-together followed with lots of talks, reminiscence, showing of old photographs, getting acquainted to yet unknown relatives. Appointments were made for future meetings, etc. Meanwhile indoors the buffet was prepared. It was great. We enjoyed it immensely. You picked up your plate and switched from one table to another. Meanwhile you needed to switch from one language into the other. There were also several works of art on exposition, and photographs and lots of other things to admire. You could never have had enough ears and eyes to take it all in, and honestly, an extra pair of legs would have suited me as well, because there were things going on outside as well.

We hadn't come to a riding-school for no reason. Eddy Sticker, the owner, and one of his fellow equestrians, gave a smashing jumping-show with his horses. Jumping full speed over a hill, then through a pond, twisting and turning. All very swiftly and elegantly. Thundering applause followed. Weren't we just lucky with the weather, it was so lovely. In the evening there was soft music and a non-stop show of Somsen Panorama. I think... there were fireworks as well, only I had already gone to sleep in my mobile home.

### Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon

On Sunday morning there was no programme, but some suggestions were made. Especially for the foreign guests a visit to the town of Zutphen proved very attractive. A trip to the farmhouse *Pakkebie* in the parish Dale was also made by several people. From this farmhouse Jan Hendrik Somsen [308] and Janna Rauwerdink [309] emigrated to the USA in 1881. They were the forefathers of a.o. John Howard Somsen [2353], who is now an advisor to the Somsen Foundation. He took the opportunity to see it with his own eyes, and so did several others.

### The late Sunday afternoon

We ended our meeting in IJzerlo with another get-together inside the farmhouse of Eddy and Alice Sticker. A nice big room, furnished like a large pub. Time had come to leave the reunion. One after another the families returned to "hearth and home".



Louise and Edward Rice-Berkseth



Slotdiner

### Festive finale

Some forty people had registered for the farewell dinner in restaurant Stegers at the marketplace in Aalten. But Wim Somsen [518], who had organized this, turned pale every time someone else wanted to join in and so we ended up with about 70 people. Full sail was employed by the restaurant staff to turn this into a grand finale for all of us.

The welcome was warm, the food delicious and the music joyful. And - last but not least - there were a number of young American Somsens who, by means of spokesman Steven Somsen [2459], made a promise.

They promised to organize the next Somsen Worldwide Reunion in 2012. Lots of cheers and Hurrahs greeted this promise. Still another surprise lay ahead of us for Edward and Louise Rice-Berkseth [3849 + 3842] turned out to have their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding-anniversary on that day. Especially on this occasion huge quantities of ice-cream were carried inside and there was firework. Of course we sang for the bridal couple and together with them we enjoyed the many delightful sorts of ice-cream!

We went home immensely satisfied.

***What a family we have! Rich in love, rich in loyalty!***



Photo Reportage



Placing the memorial plaque



Arrival of equipment



Construction on the floor



Building up



Traffic warden Wim Somsen



Campers



Guest from Wisconsin



Opening



A full house



This is the place





Quizmasters Oscar and Yeng Somsen-Naciou



Participants



Honoring Marieke Edwards and John H. Somsen



Youngsters Wim and Harry Somsen



Lunch



Stall



Churning-ladies



Somsen-stall



Ben and Dini Prins-Somsen



Our future



Marilyn Olsen Lear and Emma Somsen



Derk and Mirjam Somsen-Berends





Jobim and Mariëtte Zwarts



Jaap Jager, Gerlig's a.o.



Workshop Violaar with the Olsons



Paintings David Iserief



Exposition Johan D. Somsen



Musicians "De Spölluu"



Nativ soil



Consealed



Dick Somsen unveils





Memorial Plaque



Honoring Truida Lammers-Prinzen



Balloonists



Red, white and blue



Under the Somsen-lime-tree



On the lawn



Joke Somsen and Ed Wijngaard



Photographers



On the lawn



A little wait . . .



... and then there is Dutch Gin



The Don Somsen Family



The Geerts + Vargecko Families



Cynthia Rice + Flags





Buffet meal



Hot buffet



Jumping IJzerlo



Across the Zomp



Bartenders



With music



Likeness - Berto Somsen and Ed Rice



The Pakkebie Farmhouse







The original fireplace



Pakkebier folk



Pakkebier ca. 1942



Zutphen



Motherchrch St. Helena



Say-good-bye dinner



Dinner at Stegers



## Nineteen days in The Netherlands

### *An American's Observations*

*impressions of Marilyn J. Olson Lear [3850]*

The visit to Pakkebie-house was a highlight of the reunion, an emotional experience, knowing that my grandmother Harmina Hendrika Somsen (married to Willem Wernlund) was born there in 1878. It's ironic that Pakkebie means "have a beer" since neither my grandmother or her siblings (that I knew) would ever drink any kind of alcohol.



**Back to their roots**

I was reminded of the impact of WW II on The Netherlands and on the USA when we visited the Airborne Museum and the Anne Frank House.

I visited the places I most wanted to see and missed ten years ago when I was at the first Somsen Reunion: Van Gogh paintings in Arnhem and Amsterdam and Rembrandt paintings in Amsterdam.

I visited churches, castles, museums; liked shopping at HEMA Department Store; lived in an inn, hostels, a private home, and a city apartment; travelled by train, bus, tram, subway, private car - and loved every bit of this.

The "stair step" houses American think of as typically Dutch are usually found in cities while many of the houses in the rural areas of Gelderland are lower, wider single gable, and made of brick. I was surprised

so many were made of brick. Are the bricks made locally in Gelderland?

I learned the areas of The Netherlands which would be like the geographic organization in the USA: The Netherlands = USA

Gelderland = Wisconsin

Arnhem = Madison

Achterhoek = St Croix County

Aalten = Baldwin

IJzerlo = Rush River (areas around Baldwin).

I know sizes are different, but it helped me understand The Netherlands to compare it with the USA.

I learned that immigrants often left from Rotterdam rather than Amsterdam which was still low water soaked land at that time. Coffee and food, of course, were part of The Netherlands experience. I bought several 4 ounce cups of

coffee for two euros while others in our group bought sixteen ounces of Grolsch for two euros. I've got to start drinking beer! I learned that the new individual coffee makers, making one cup at the time, were invented or developed in The Netherlands and is now the most common way for making coffee. But, one needs to know that coffee shops in Amsterdam do not serve coffee, but cafes do serve coffee. A memorable meal was a plate of chocolates and a glass of wine at the New York Hotel in Rotterdam, the site of much immigration to the USA. Imagine! A whole plate of chocolate!! Yum!

And authentic Dutch meal of Hutspot (carrots, potatoes, onions, sausage cooked together); and Boerenkool (kale potatoes sausage cooked together) were the same dishes I grew up with, made by my grandmother Harmina (Minnie) and my mother Gezina (Celia). My favorite Dutch food I grew to love, as did the rest of the people in our group, was 'Stroopwafels bereid met 100% roomboter'! I got a recipe on the internet and tried making them when I returned home, but have to practice a whole lot.

This was a wonderful, wonderful time. Thanks to the kind, gracious, friendly family who made it all possible and so graciously provided transportation, information, and made our time in The Netherlands a time that will never be forgotten.



**Grolsch beer**



**Visiting  
Yvonne Reijs-Edel**

## The Big Somsen Game

by the maker Ben Somsen from Zaandam [438]

On Saturday morning, August 18, 2007 we played *The Big Somsen Game*.  
The motive was the motto of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Somsen Reunion: *Back to our roots*.  
Therefore we wondered: what do we actually know about our Somsen-roots?  
We then developed a game and hoped that afterwards everyone would say:  
hey, it is good to know that!

If you were not present at the reunion you will get a chance now to test  
your knowledge of your family, but also when you were present you will get a second chance.  
The correct answers can be found at the back of this *Somsen Horizon*.  
We wish you lots of success and pleasure!

### In the beginning

#### Question 01 . What is the name of our common ancestor ?

- a. Roelof Somsen
- b. Wander Somsen
- c. Geert Boeinck



#### Question 02 . What is the name of our female common ancestor ?

- a. Jantjen Somsen
- b. Mechtelt Gelkinck
- c. Jenneken Fukking



#### Question 03 . What does the name Somsen mean ?

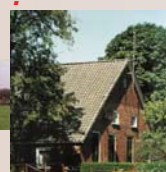
- a. Sometimes
- b. Swamp
- c. Samson

ms bijt 1 nu en dan, wel eens: ~ komt er o  
orbij; 2 wellicht, misschien: had je ~ g  
t ik het niet deed?



#### Question 04 . What farmhouse was the residence of the Somsens ?

- a. Somsenhuis
- b. Japikshuis
- c. Pakkebier



### Eye-catching family members

#### Question 05. Who was the most beautiful girl of Barlo (one of the Aalten hamlets) ?

- a. Jeanie Somsen
- b. Harmina te Paske
- c. Theodora Kaemingh



#### Question 06. Which family member was 100 years old ?

- a. Janna Rauwerdink
- b. Johanna Heersink
- c. Albert Somsen





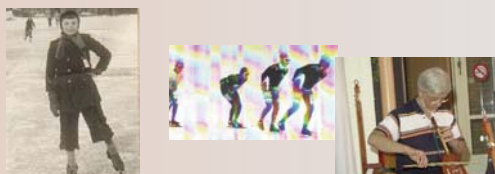
**Question 07 . Which USA-Somsen was nicknamed "The Judge" ?**

- a. Stephen Herbert Somsen
- b. Donald Somsen
- c. Henry John Somsen



**Question 08 . Which Somsen finished 3 times in the famous 11-city skating race ?**

- a. Theo Somsen (Vaassen)
- b. Wim Somsen (Dinxperlo)
- c. Wim Somsen (Wageningen)



## The Emigration

**Question 09 . Who was the first Somsen who left for the USA in 1847 ?**

- a. Jan Hendrik Somsen
- b. Hendrik Jan Somsen
- c. Aaltjen Somsen



**Question 10 . Why did he or she leave ?**

- a. For religious reasons
- b. Potato-crop failure
- c. Wanted to be a movie-star



**Question 11 . How many inhabitants of Aalten emigrated between 1844-1847 ?**

- a. 329 (10 % of the population)
- b. 824 (25 % of the population)
- c. 1.316 (40 % of the population)



**Question 12 . Where did they embark ?**

- a. Arnhem
- b. Rotterdam
- c. Amsterdam



## USA till today

**Question 13 . Where did most emigrants settle ?**

- a. New York
- b. Michigan
- c. Wisconsin



**Question 14 . Where was the 2002 Reunion held ?**

- a. Woodville - WI
- b. Baldwin - WI
- c. Eau Claire - WI



**Question 15 . Who was the first Somsen visitor of The Netherlands of the 1847 branch ?**

- a. Henry N. Somsen Sr.
- b. Henry N. Somsen Jr.
- c. Stephen D. Somsen



**Question 16 . Who was the first Somsen visitor of The Netherlands of the 1881 branch ?**

- a. Raymond A. Somsen
- b. Mary Jean Somsen
- c. Donald Somsen



**The Netherlands till today**

**Question 17 . In which province of The Netherlands do most Somsens live ?**

- a. Province of Friesland
- b. Province of Gelderland
- c. Province of Zeeland



**Question 18 How many people were present at the first day of the Reunion of 1997 ?**

- a. 200
- b. 400
- c. 600



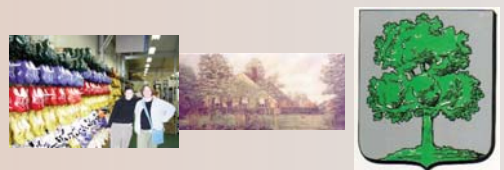
**Question 19 . What kind of tree was planted then ?**

- a. Lime tree
- b. Poplar
- c. Beech



**Question 20 . Why a lime tree ?**

- a. The Somsens made wooden shoes out of it
- b. Used to be in front of Japikshouse
- c. Is in the city coat of arms of Aalten



**Flags of the countries where Somsens live**

**Question 21 . How many flags are in the Reunion-logo ?**

- a. 10
- b. 12
- c. 15



**Question 22 . Which country's flag is this ?**

- a. Spain
- b. Portugal
- c. Greece



**Question 23 . Which country's flag is this ?**

- a. Norway
- b. Switzerland
- c. England



**Question 24 . Which country's flag is this ?**

- a. South Africa
- b. Tanzania
- c. Monaco





## Three Twins at the Reunion

*impressions of Jobim Zwarts [2043]*

Sometimes things stare you in the face, but you forget to be amazed. And sometimes it takes a Somsen-world-wide-reunion to make you see the light...

For me this was the first Somsen-reunion I attended. The branch from Ede (NL) of the Somsen family was nearly "all hands", so I felt at home right away. Pretty quickly contacts were made with relatives from across the pond, and very soon I noticed there were two ladies who looked frighteningly identical. Soon I found out they were Patricia and Pamela Rice [3848 + 3847], twin sisters from the United States.

And then the dime dropped for me. In the Ede-branch we know two more twin-duos, also girls-only. Nobilee and Delphine van den Bos [4370 + 4371] are the daughters of my sister King [2035] and her husband Rembrandt [4024]. Bente and Hedda Somsen [2847 + 2848] are the offspring of my first cousin Oscar Somsen [2040] and his wife Yeng Nacion [2042].

Since these twins were all present in IJzerlo, the idea appealed to me to get them all together for a photo-shoot for the *Somsen Horizon*.

Luckily the ladies liked the idea too. And since my uncle Gerrit van Roekel [444] - who is a good photographer - felt like it too we got some beautiful pictures, as you can see.

Of course, this raised a few questions as well: are there more twins in the family, and do they know one another?



**Patricia and Pamela**  
**Bente, Nobilee, Delphine and Hedda**  
*(maybe just the other way around!)*

## Where did the balloons go ?

*by Theo Somsen [227]*

Very fast the red, white and blue balloons climbed the sky on that Saturday afternoon. Slowly they disappeared out of sight, heading north-east. A few balloons were not that lucky and got stuck in the trees in the yard of the Somsenhouse. But would the others survive? From a few we know since some finders responded.

Evelien Stadler's from Didam [175] balloon landed some 20 kilometres farther in the field of cattle trader B.J.H. ten Dolle, Lemmenesweg in Winterswijk. About 30 kilometres covered the balloon of Daphne Somsen from Aalten [3804] before it was found at the Oude Aaltenseweg in Groenlo by W. ten Barge.

Chiel Somsen from Slagharen [4001] must have pushed his balloon extra hard, for it was found as far away as 80 kilometres by 10-year-old Michelle Konert from Ochtrup, Germany.

Chiel had better be a balloonist when he's grown up!

The three finders have received a nice picture postcard from us and here we proudly mention the names of Evelien, Daphne and Chiel.

*Congratulations!*



## We are longing for more !

*impressions of Hans and Diny Geerts-Bovenhoff [3070 + 1370]*

This reunion was quite different from the one ten years ago, but it was great fun.

We were host to three American ladies this time: Sharon Vargecko-Somsen [2541] and Amy Vargecko [2542] from Utah and Stacey Aikens-Vargecko [2541] from Texas. Mother Sharon and her two daughters.

Late in the afternoon on Friday we met on the camping site in IJzerlo and later that evening we drove to Nieuwleusen. Sharon, Amy and Stacey had a rental car at their disposal. We put a "Geerts" in both cars; just in case we might lose sight of each other...

Back home we shared drinks and swapped a story or two.

We slept well and early next morning we headed back to IJzerlo, where our mutual roots lay. Once there we had an eventful day, with something for everyone's liking. We met new people, and people we had met before. We met Bennie Somsen [516] again, with whom I played in the Somsen Orchestra 10 years ago. Willie and Martha Somsen-te Grotenhuis [1561 + 1563] from the German Somsen-branch were there too.



Stacey, Diny, Amy and Sharon

On Sunday we didn't go back to the reunion, we took Sharon, Amy and Stacey sightseeing in our own neighborhood.

First we went to see Staphorst, where they still wear traditional costumes. A village with beautiful old farmhouses, painted in characteristic blue and green colors. Giethoorn was our next destination (Venice in Holland) where we sailed a "whisper boat" through the canals and across the lake. Our cameras had a lot to do in Staphorst and Giethoorn.

We had a very nice lunch before returning home. Sharon, Amy and Stacey had to leave in time, in order to return their car to the agency. So at 4 in the afternoon there came an end to our pleasant companionship.

It's a shame it was just for such a short time. We had a lot of fun together and we got on really well. And we dusted off our English in the process.

We were given two nice books about Utah and Texas, with great pictures that show clearly how extremely beautiful nature is, especially in Utah. Hans and I would love to go there and see it all with our own eyes.

Now we correspond through the e-mail. We miss their sense of humor, their geniality and their spontaneity.

We would love to meet them again!

### Answers Big Somsen Game

- |    |                                |    |  |
|----|--------------------------------|----|--|
| 01 | C. Geert Boeinck               | 15 | A. Henry N. Somsen Sr. (1923)            |
| 02 | B. Mechtelt Gelkinck           | 16 | B. Mary Jean Somsen (1957)               |
| 03 | B. Somp (Swamp)                | 17 | B. Province of Gelderland                |
| 04 | A. Somsenhuis                  | 18 | B. 400                                   |
| 05 | B. Harmina te Paske            | 19 | A. Lime-tree                             |
| 06 | C. Albert Somsen               | 20 | C. Is in the city coat of arms of Aalten |
| 07 | C. Henry John Somsen           | 21 | C. 15                                    |
| 08 | B. Wim Somsen (Dinxperlo)      | 22 | B. Portugal                              |
| 09 | C. Aaltjen Somsen (1847)       | 23 | C. England                               |
| 10 | B. Potato-crop failure         | 24 | A. South Africa                          |
| 11 | A. 329 (10% of the population) |    |  |
| 12 | B. Rotterdam                   |    |  |
| 13 | C. Wisconsin                   |    |  |
| 14 | B. Baldwin-WI                  |    |  |



## Family Announcements

*In this column we would like to draw your attention to the family announcements that have reached us. We are very much pleased to present them to you and are grateful to everybody who took the trouble to inform us about the merry and sad events in their and our family.*

*This also enables our advisor Dick Somsen from Zwolle to keep our genealogical files up-to-date, so that we, in turn, can inform you in Somsen Horizon.*

*We really appreciate it very much that you send in your family announcements (together with pictures please!) to our secretariat:*

**Somsen Foundation, Jan Tooropstraat 2, 3817 PZ Amersfoort, The Netherlands.**

### Born

**04-08-2005:** Luke Ryder [5864], s.o. Noah Benjamin Jacobson [2384] and Tara Potee [3968]

**19-09-2006:** Maya Rebekah [5865], d.o. Noah Benjamin Jacobson [2384] and Tara Potee [3968]

**04-10-2006:** Tobias [5781], s.o. Bart Jeroen van den Hooff [5072] and Ilse Mariska Willemina van Roekel [2851]

**08-12-2006:** Frederik Lambertus Andries (Freek) [5780], s.o. Sybren Jan Frederik Pleijsant [5779] and Roos Maria (Roos) Velzel [683]

**19-02-2007:** Tyn Herwin [5764], s.o. Johan Friso Jansen [5360] and Ingrid Wilhelmina Somsen [997]

**29-03-2007:** Cash Andoen [5759], s.o. Cullen Andoen Jager Jensen [4865] and Andrea Paulsen [5581]

**03-04-2007:** Lawrence Dylan Thomas [5744], s.o. Herman Bertus Somsen [180] and Kirstin Marie Hyslin [3936]

**24-07-2007:** Cecelia Marie [5860], d.o. James Sébastien Bear [4137] and Heidi Marie Schmautz [4143]

**20-08-2007:** Tobias Jaron [5859], s.o. Marcel Raymond Somsen [1196] and Paulina Jochiema (Lione) van Klij [4961]



Ken and Jeanie



Wolfgang and Nicola

### Married

**22-05-2007:** Vincent Somsen [1874] and Nico Migchelbrink [5773]

**15-09-2007:** Kenneth William (Ken) Fowler [5849] and Jean Elaine (Jeanie) Somsen [773]

**21-09-2007:** Wolfgang Somsen [1570] and Nicola Specht [5868]

### Deceased

**26-12-2006:**  
Elisabeth Louise Rasmussen-Somsen [812]  
82  
Glenwood City, WI. USA

**24-01-2007:**  
Gertrude Meendering [5185]  
88  
Orange City, IA. USA

**07-03-2007:**  
Arend Jan (Jan) Mengerink [1851]  
83  
Neede

**25-03-2007:**  
Hendrika Gerharda van der Waal-Eenink [2567]  
76  
Doetinchem

**10-04-2007:**  
Joyce Marilyn Somsen [5798]  
81  
Chandler, AZ. USA

**14-04-2007:**  
Dirkje Hoopman [385]  
82  
Eibergen

**22-06-2007:**  
Mary Jean Somsen [823]  
83  
Janesville, WI. USA

**17-08-2007:**  
Donald William (Don) Berkseth [3852]  
67  
Baldwin, WI. USA

**18-08-2007:**  
James Christiaan (Jim) Wernlund [803]  
94  
USA

**17-09-2007:**  
Johanna Hendrika Somsen-Wijnveen [620]  
90  
Aalten







*Sunday-afternoon - on the bridge near the Farmhouse  
Pakkebier*