



Somsen horizon

Volume 12 – number 22 – May 2009

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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 achieve 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**

Finish at the Chinese Wall

Preface

Influx of new supporters...and a recently discovered Somsen of the 16th century

When you are reading these words you may frown with some surprise for we often cannot resist from addressing ourselves to you with the request to recruit new supporters since this is of vital importance for family foundations like ours. Every year family members pass away and for that reason it is necessary that we can welcome new supporters of our family foundation. However, now that you are reading that there is an influx of new supporters I would like to give you some more background information. Parallel to this there is a peculiar discovery which I will inform you about after this.

From our treasurer I learned that we have been in a position to register a number of new supporters within a very brief period of time and all of them had been entered by their parents. In every case the parents valued their grown-up children's receiving *Somsen Horizon* and *Somsen Newsletters* so much that they gave them a year's - and sometimes even more - membership of our foundation as a present.

And I hereby decide to follow their example - and by doing so I hope to inspire you - and give away a membership to my younger daughter, who has lived abroad for nearly ten years, and whose interest in these matters has faded a little. Are you joining me? You are bound to have one or more children who do not yet receive our family magazine and newsletters.

Quite recently we have made an interesting discovery: we have found a Somsen who is mentioned in ancient archives of a court of law in Bredevoort of 1572. With him our family history has probably been extended with nearly half a century, the oldest entry of our family name so far goes back to 1609. The entry of 1572 is only very brief but its importance is not less valuable. Berndt Sumps was accused of a minor offence: he had dug too much peat. He appealed to a higher court in Zutphen where on April 12, 1572 they came to a settlement. Still an enterprising old chap and presumably not so simple nor docile either for he appealed to a higher court which caused him to travel all the way to Zutphen - a distance of 55 kilometres which he most likely had to walk in those days.

Now that the distance in time is so big it would of course have been much more thrilling if something really shocking had happened: an exciting trial and an even more exciting execution or a very spicy scandal. Unfortunately we cannot offer you this. Yet these few lines in this ancient archive offer us some beautiful

information: we now know that long before Geert Sumps, born ca. 1666, there were Somsens.

We owe this find to a neighbour of our treasurer. She was translating old archives into modern Dutch and bumped into this early ancestor of ours.

Of course it is not absolutely clear that this Somsen is related to us since there no other reference points but both his name and the neighbourhood where he lived coincide and our family name is so unique that the chances are very big that he belongs to us.

In any case it is a peculiar phenomenon that we can notice extension of our family in various respects: we have got a new ancestor and a number of new supporters of our family foundation.



Johan Somsen

As you may have noticed we have informed you about the ups and downs of our family in a Newsletter of January 2009. In doing so we have changed the old rhythm of two publications of *Somsen Horizon* a year. However, we were forced to do so in order to guarantee the continuity of our magazine - our new editor was prepared to do the job on condition that there would be only one publication a year. And I must say that we are grateful that he will do this for us. In return you will receive more

Newsletters, though. What has become clear now is that you will receive one in January/February and one in autumn. *Somsen Horizon* appears around May every year. In fact in this way you will more often receive information of what is going on in our family.

You are always very welcome to contribute to one of our publications. It is absolutely not necessary to send in a nicely polished article; background information only, preferably with a few pictures, will also do. We will edit it so that it can be published. I am absolutely certain that there are interesting events in your immediate environment and from experience we know that many Somsens from all over the world will read these stories with great interest.

On behalf of the board,
Johan Somsen

New Horizons for Chris Somsen

by Chris Somsen [1382]

In June 2008 a dream became reality for me. For years I had been an admirer of "Le Dakar" or Paris - Dakar, as it used to be called. A desert raid that was held for the first time in 1979.

Niek Goverts, whom I've been friends with for over 40 years, decided, after an evening of talking about the beauty of competing in this raid, that we should put our money where our mouths were. Since this seemed like a good opportunity to promote his company 'Holland Cranes' we started by finding out what we needed to arrange. Well, there was a lot to do! Apart from the struggle to get an FIA license, the financial side proved to be an enormous obstacle for ordinary people like us. Soon I was compelled to admit that for me it would remain a dream. However, Niek had already bought himself a car, and decided to press on. And he still wanted to use my knowledge as a "Dakar fan".



Niek Goverts

So I joined him as navigator in the national races, which he needed to get his licenses. After doing the Tuareg Rally in Morocco for desert experience, Niek decided it was time for the real thing. Unfortunately the Dakar Rally, that is run in January every year, was cancelled when there were threats made by terrorists against the raid's competitors. But there was an alternative. Rene Metge, an experienced Dakar man, organized the TRANSORIENTAL RALLY, that was to be held for the first time. This rally starts in St. Petersburg in Russia, travelling through Kazakhstan to Beijing to the finish at the foot of the Great Wall of China. In the mean time we had welcomed a new sponsor, the PRODECT company of my brother-in-law Bert Alberts [1384]. And together Niek and Albert decided it was my 'duty' to go. Financially the whole project was covered by our sponsors now. My employer decided to sponsor me by granting me two extra weeks leave. "This should not cost you your holidays with your wife and kids", he confided. So now there was just one obstacle left: How do I tell my wife? We decided three weeks would be a

long time, but not impossible, and so a childhood dream became reality. To gain the necessary experience, Niek had contacted Henk Vercoelen. Henk had competed in the Dakar Raid 10 times already, and he agreed to drive the service truck. A new challenge for this motor cyclist. We entered a period of little sleep and lots of 'spanner work' to get the car, a Landrover Discovery, and the service truck ready in time.



Klaar voor vertrek. v.l.n.r. Niek Goverts zijn zoon Stefan, Henk Vercoelen (achter het stuur Bert Alberts [1384] Chris Somsen [1382] Willem Somsen [1378]

Departure from Hardenberg

On Sunday evening the 8th of June, Henk Vercoelen and Willem Somsen[1378] left in the truck with the rally car on top and headed for Rostock (Germany) and the ferry. Their departure had been planned for Saturday morning, but then the Landrover refused to fire up. This cost us, and our mechanic Otto Dolstra another sleepless night and a lot of hard labor. Then, after one hour of driving through Germany, the truck broke down. Broken wheel bearings. It seemed to be harder to reach the starting line of this race than to get to the finish. Niek immediately left for Germany, and once there he decided to drive the rally car to St. Petersburg himself, accompanied by Willem, leaving behind some astounded German Police officers. And while Otto and I were on an airplane to Russia, Niek and Willem drove through Denmark, Sweden and Finland towards St. Petersburg to arrive there in the early hours of Wednesday. In the meantime we had arranged for the scrutineering of our car to be rescheduled from Tuesday to Wednesday. So while the repaired service truck almost arrived the Landrover was checked in for the rally in the nick of time. We felt like we'd had our First victory, and we hadn't even raced a single mile yet! After Willem flew back to the Netherlands the HOLLAND CRANES RALLY TEAM with Niek Goverts and Chris Somsen [1382] in Rally car 242 and Henk Vercoelen, his wife Liudmila Gubina and mechanic Otto Dolstra in the service truck 641 were able to start the 10726 kilometers from St. Petersburg to Beijing. Before the start of the race on Thursday June 12th there was the official starting ramp on the Palace square in St. Petersburg.

A historic site in Russian history. It was in this very square, surrounded by the Hermitage and winter palace that the Russian revolution began. Here all contestants were introduced to the (mostly) Russian audience.



Somsen in the Palace square in St. Petersburg

And so it happened that the Somsen name was exclaimed over the square. Thursday morning meant an early start of the day. Now the rally is really beginning. The aim of the First days is to leave the inhabited world as soon as possible. This means 1700 kilometers of relays and only 163 km of special stages in two days. Henk Vercoelen is driving the truck. His Russian wife Liudmila navigates and Otto tries to get some sleep so he'll be fit to fix the Landrover we nicknamed 'Peking Duck' after Willem found some rubber ducks in the boxes we used for spare parts. However, the bad roads kept Otto awake. When halfway between St. Petersburg and Moscow the truck is overtaken by a loose rear wheel of their own truck the whole service crew is wide awake.



A wheel has come off

Just getting to the finishing line will prove to be a real fight. After a roadside servicing where the racing crew lent a hand too the truck proceeds to Moscow for final repairs. We continue in the raid for a day without assistance. The road conditions are bad, the relays are long and the special stages are short. The organization, however, is perfect. There's a good breakfast every

morning, and no matter how late in the evening you arrive, there's always a hot meal and the officials at the start and finish are very friendly and motivating. The campsite in Yelabooga at the end of the third day is very impressive. They've chosen a mountain top with a magnificent view over the Kama river. Kama is the longest branch of the river Wolga. Its wells are in the central part of the Upper-Kama Heights in the north-east of Udmurtia.



The horizon in Kazakhstan

The name of this river can be recognized in the name of the Russian Kamaz trucks, who have a very strong team in this rally-raid. In this campsite a warm welcome was prepared by the local community and their dignitaries. There's music and dancing but there's too little time to enjoy it all. There are some repairs to be done, and we'd like to catch a little sleep too, before we go into the last two Russian days. When we cross the border we drive into Kazakhstan, where we meet the worst roads in the whole raid.

Enormous bare steppes strewn with long, straight, dreadful roads make the relays even worse than the special stages. The view from the car could best be described as the drawings we used to make at school: a long horizon and every line converging into this one point on the horizon. The capital city Astana is in sharp contrast to the rest of the country. Astana (formerly known as Tselinograd aka Aqmola) is the capital city of Kazakhstan, beside the river Isjim, in Northern Kazakhstan, in flat steppe landscape. In 2005 est. 550.000 people lived in what's been Kazakhstan's



Rescue by the Liazteam

capital since 1997. During the special stages in Kazakhstan we get stuck twice while crossing rivers. The first time we get pulled out by a Czech Liaz truck that's following in the wake of Hugo Duister's GINAF.

The second time a camera team of the Raid's organization helps us get the 'Peking Duck' out of the water. Perhaps we should have taken another nickname than a duck in these wet surroundings? Anyway, we're still in the race. We only get a time penalty of three hours. Since we missed a waypoint earlier on our total penalty is six hours by now.



Chris Somsen

Where the Kazakhs can keep you waiting for three hours for two stamps, in China bureaucracy takes no time at all, even though there's lots of things to do (Chinese driving license, registration numbers, paper checks and money changing). They're really well organized. When we enter the country in every village there are people by the roadside cheering. They're very enthusiastic everywhere. Whenever you stop for refueling you're swarmed by people asking autographs and taking your picture. At one fuel station it's so crowded that the police need to fence off the station so we can fill our tank 'in peace'. We feel like pop stars. Look what two 'peasants' in a car with some stickers on it can do... The road conditions in China are very good and they mean a great relief for our service team. The rally really takes off now, and according to experienced Dakar competitors is tougher than the Dakar Rally itself. The Gobi desert is our playground for the coming days, and it is the biggest desert of the Asian continent. It stretches over the north of China and the southern part of Mongolia. It stretches over a thousand miles from the southeast to the northwest and over 500 miles north to south, almost a million square miles. So it's also one of the largest deserts in the World. We have a day off in Turfan, China's deepest place, 152 meters below the sea and over 40 degrees Celsius (100 F).

From here on it really gets heavy. During our daily brief-

ing we're told the conditions here are the same as is expected for the rest of the course. High sand dunes and long distances play havoc among the competitors. Our Landrover nevertheless feels very much at home in these conditions. Where others get stuck in the sand our 'Peking Duck' flies across the sometimes 120 yards high dunes like it's never done anything else. We find ourselves moving toward the top of the leader board. Even experienced drivers are asking us what tire-pressure we are running. You can smell the disbelief from teams running on much higher budgets. Our 'ugly duckling' turns out a beautiful swan! Dumb bad luck in the last two special stages prevents us from finishing in the top 10.

When we finally arrive at the foot of the Great Wall on the 28th of June, without exhaust pipe, a leaking radiator, mended engine-support and power-steering pump, we are greeted with loud applause. 52 cars started, 30 reached the finish, and we were 23rd. Our goal was just to reach Beijing, we did better than that, thanks to all the people who helped us. During preparations, and on the road. Like on the campsite, CO2 welding at the MAN team, machining an engine support with the TechnoRaid Bowler team and all the spare parts and



De Finish bij de Chinese Muur. v.l.n.r. Otto Dolstra, Chris Somsen, Niek Goverts, Liudmila Gubina en Henk Vercoelen

Finish at the Chinese Wall

support from Pascal de Baar and the Dutch Team Dakar. Pascal proved himself a Samaritan already in St. Petersburg.

Here comes my conclusion. The local people in the three countries we visited have impressed us with their enthusiastic reception. We were very sorry we couldn't take the time to talk to a driver we met during a special stage, who opened his window to have a chat after we let him pass. He probably never understood why we were in such a 'hurry'.

If you'd like to see or read more about our team and the rally-raid, please visit www.hollandcranes.com and click RallyTeam or Transorientale.

A step backwards in the Somsen history

by Harry Somsen [146]

Berndt Sumps is tried in 1572

In the legal protocol of Bredevoort 1571 -1572 we meet Berndt Sumps in a trial of 1572. From this we can conclude that our family name is much older than we have known so far. The first Somsen we find in our family history is Geert Sumps in 1666. There is a document of 1609, though, with our family name but it refers to an early inhabitant of the Sompstedeken (the original Somsen-house) whose name is Lubbert Albers and who later on is also called Sumbs.

The bailiff and judge, Jaspar van Broickhusen, together with his assistants Johan Laerberch, Harmen Nachtegale, Herman Evertz, Derich ter Ville and Marten Kalwagen come from Zutphen to Bredevoort to do justice in the house of Hermans Evers. This takes place on March 12, 1572.

Jaspar van Broickhusen sits in judgement in the manorial estate of Bredevoort on a number of offences. He concentrates on a number of cases concerning hand-to-hand fights and people who have dug too much peat, more than they were entitled to.

It was the custom that on Sunday mornings before the church service a so-called "Kerckenspracke" was proclaimed: people were informed about new laws which came into effect. Recently it had been announced that it was forbidden to dig an unlimited amount of peat.

The court finds Berndt Sumps guilty of having dug an abundance of peat which he had transported from the outlying district. This was in conflict with the announcement at the "Kerckenspracke". The court judges it true that it had been transported by a wagon and horse. The court finds Berndt Sumps guilty and wants to pass sentence on him. Berndt admits that he had possibly taken too much peat; he admits with a reservation and declares to appeal to a higher court in Zutphen.

At the session of the court in Zutphen on April 12, 1572 Berndt is going to defend himself before Judge Jaspar van Broickhusen and his assistants Herman Toben and Johan Holsten. He was entitled to a certain amount of peat, but obviously he had been overzealous. (A Somsen complaint). When he realises he cannot get away without a fine he proposes to come to an agreement.

We have not found any information about the verdict but the usual fine for this kind of offences was a barrel of beer.



*Drawing of a
'Kerckenspraak' bench*

As our source we have used the Legal Protocols 1571 - 1572 of Bredevoort which have been translated into modern Dutch by the Oudheidkundige Werkgemeenschap ADW (Aalten-Dinxperlo-Wisch), (a historical study group). It was Jenneke Hiensch, a neighbour of our treasurer Jan van Daatselaar, who was translating these protocols and who informed Jan of this piece of information.

Pleasure on Ice

by Johan Somsen [1089]

Throughout the centuries the inhabitants of the Low Countries have moved on ice in winter. In pre-historic times they used simple skates - "glissen" - which were made of the bones of horses. Nowadays we make use of very sophisticated skates. The pleasure that has always gone with it has not changed throughout the centuries, though. The ancient Dutch masters of the 16th and 17th centuries give us a clear picture of this.

Since these Low Countries near the sea have been populated the inhabitants have moved on ice in winter. In The Netherlands there have been regular archaeological finds in several locations of the forerunner of our modern skates. These ancient skates, very often thousands and thousands of years old, were usually made of the bones of horses. Not so long ago they found prehistoric skates near Stadskanaal (in the North of The Netherlands) which after careful study even turned out to be slap skates.



Prehistoric bone skates

About the Middle Ages and the centuries afterwards we know that skating was a favourite pastime of our ancestors. A wealth of beautiful paintings of many famous old masters has been left behind. Especially 17th - century masters are responsible for the fact that in many museums all over the world splendid winter scenes can be admired in which young and old move on the ice. The most productive painter of this kind of

paintings is Hendrick Avercamp (1585 - 1634) but also



**Brueghel,
skating scene**

many other well-known masters such as Pieter Brueghel (1520 - 1569), Frans Hals (1583 - 1666) and Jan Steen (1625 - 1679) have left behind the most beautiful winter scenes.

When well over a hundred years ago the first Eleven-city-tour was held - a tour of about 200 km along all the eleven cities of Friesland (a province in the North of The Netherlands) - this was not the introduction of a new era but the confirmation of a tradition that was thousands of years old.

And now, in 2009, nothing has changed in the experience of this people on coast of the North Sea. As soon as ditches, canals and lakes are covered with a thin layer of ice for some inexplicable reason the blood of many Dutchmen starts running much faster, they are deprived of every reason and the first daredevils decide to skate on the ice after only one night.

Also our language knows many expressions connected with the wonderful sport of ice-skating which illustrates how profoundly this sport is embedded in our people: we should *not skate on thin ice*, we can *break the ice* when we want to bring relief during an awkward silence. But, for obvious reasons, most of these expressions cannot be translated since they are Dutch exclusivity.

When we had a beautiful spell of ice this winter the Dutch went totally mad, we went on the ice with hundreds of thousands and this unfortunately also led to many casualties. There were even two fatal accidents and thousands of people had to be taken to hospital.

Unfortunately we only have few cold winters in this small country on the North Sea. This very sea is largely responsible for this - because of our location our winters are relatively warm and furthermore we fear the negative influence of global warming. But the winter of 2009 will certainly live on in the memories of many of the skating enthusiasts as a real old-fashioned skating-winter. Just like the severe winter of 1963 and so there are a few winters in the memory of every generation. In the first weeks of January a period of frost set in which turned out to be ideal: during a considerable period temperatures did not rise above freezing point, not even in the daytime, and with this the sun shone so exuberantly that the conditions for skating tours were perfect. Millions of Dutchmen took extra leave and en



Ice-skaters on the Weerribben

masse they moved to the sun-drenched ice-plain and the images this yields remind us so sharply of the scenes that were immortalized in the multitude of 400-year-old paintings.

Clothes have changed, the architectural style is not the same anymore and skates have developed more and more, but the pleasure on ice has remained the same. And ice-skating, which is so much in our blood, does



Johan Somsen on the Weerribben

not make a distinction between social classes nor between ages: rich and poor, young and old, they all glide over the frozen water with the same pleasure as the Dutch of the 16th and 17th centuries.

For just a brief period of time this lovely winter of 2009 changed our country into a true Paradise. For a short time there was no crisis, the important world news passed by, the world kept turning whereas the Dutch were gliding between the reed borders on their way to distant horizons.

Whether the oldest Somsens we know were also in a position to go out skating remains doubtful for in the neighbourhood of IJzerlo there is not much water, but one of our present relatives, Wim Somsen [518], has certainly compensated for this. Wim has completed the official Eleven-city-tour no less than three times and in addition he has finished many times in the alternative Eleven-city-tour on the Weissensee in Austria where, when there is no ice in The Netherlands, a 200 km track is prepared for the true fanatics.

The Ganzendiep near Kampen frozen over

by Tineke Stadler - Somsen [135]

In summer we always like to visit our parents Dick [135] and Dikky [133] Somsen -Lenselink in their mobile home on the bank of the Ganzendiep near Kampen. We are always welcome there for sailing, swimming and for having a good time together.

It does not happen very often that the Ganzendiep is frozen over completely. So when we received a phone-call in the weekend of 10 - 11 January that it was possible to skate the decision to go there was taken very fast! My brother Dirk [136] and his wife Mirjan [197] and their children Marline [3922] and Dieder [4941] even came two times all the way from Hillegom to enjoy the ice.

My daughter Evelien [175] and I did not regret having come from Didam, it was very nice!



All of us on the Ganzendiep near Kampen

My father and mother did not put on their skates anymore. Dad celebrated his 80eth birthday on March 2, but he pulled my mother on a sledge.

The Somsens and The Netherlands through American eyes

by Marilyn Olson-Lear [3850]

126 years after Jan Hendrik Somsen and Janna Hendrika Somsen- Rauwerdink came to the USA in 1881, fifteen descendents of two of their children, Hermina Hendrika Somsen Wernlund and Bernard John Somsen, (two of the fifteen children they would produce and two of the three children who immigrated with them to the USA in 1881) attended the Third World Wide Somsen Reunion in Aalten at IJzerlo in The Netherlands on August 17-19, 2007. Ten of the fifteen toured The Netherlands for fourteen days from August 20 - September 2, following the reunion.

Marilyn was already present at our first World Wide

Somsen Reunion in 1997 and at the Great Somsen Reunion in Baldwin, WI, USA in 2002 she did a marvelous job as Master of Ceremonies.



Relatives

The fifteen descendents are:

Row 1: Somsen Reunion Logo; Marilyn Berkseth Olson-Lear, Hermina's granddaughter

Row 2: Edward Rice; Louise Berkseth Rice, Hermina's granddaughter; John Somsen, Bernard's grandson; Isaac Olson, Hermina's great-great-grandson; Darla Van der Sluis Olson; Nathan Olson, Hermina's great-great-grandson; Bradley Olson, Hermina's great-grandson

Row 3: Edward Rice, Pamela Rice, Cynthia Rice Overman, Patricia Rice, Hermina's great-grandchildren; Brigitte Kerr, Becky Kerr Errigo, Hermina's great-granddaughters; John Errigo

Relatives

The best part of The Netherlands is the Somsens - kind, hospitable, learned, artistic, and fun - with whom we shared family, culture, history, stories, laughter, food, and wine. The reunion events showed us: Somsen organization, cooperation, and hard work to set up the reunion in the riding school; paintings, musical instruments, displays, horsemanship in the swamps, music, tours, food and fun. Emma, Yvonne, John, Steven, Theo, and Johan drove us to the reunion and to see the area, and sometimes loaned us a car since we were using public transportation.

Emma showed us her home and drugstore in Dinxperlo. Julia brought us to Xanten, her home, and the famous autobahn in Germany. Albert and Lisa showed us The Hague. Theo, Yvonne and Johan, Marien and Mimi and King, Oscar and Yang showed us the interesting and beautiful country of our grandparents and invited us to their homes for conversation

and great food.

We felt connected to family through visiting the home, church, and the area where our great grandparents lived. We can't begin to thank each of you enough for making our visit so wonderful!

Food

Food was a very enjoyable part of our time in The Netherlands. The hotchpotch Oscar made was like the dish our mother and grandmother made. "Uitsmijter" and "boerenomelet" were similar, but served a little differently. We loved them all. New to us were "bitterballen" and our favorite "stroopwafels". We all bought "stroopwafels" to take home. The delicious breads and spreads at Yvonne's and at Marine and Mimi's, the brie cheese on sandwiches at La Place Restaurant on Kalverstraat in Amsterdam, and the plate of chocolates with a glass of wine at the New York Hotel in Rotterdam were delicious and somewhat like those in the USA. My sister Louise and I were in ecstasy, each eating a whole plate of chocolates!

The important thing we learned about food was that we women should have drunk beer instead of coffee. It's a lot cheaper and a lot larger serving. The most coffee for the least euros was at La Place Restaurant on Kalverstraat. Also that though our American Somsen grandparents were teetotalers, our Netherlands Somsen relatives, like us, enjoy a glass of wine, among other beverages.

Country/Landscape

The Netherlands is a beautiful country in both rural and urban areas. We don't have canals in Midwest USA so we enjoyed the daytime canal rides in Utrecht and in Amsterdam and the night canal ride in Amsterdam. Vondel Park has some lovely big old sprawling trees, a pond with ducks, and open green spaces. The Dutch rivers with their grassy banks and paved edges wind peacefully along communities. The most beautifully sculpted and arranged garden I've ever seen was the garden at the Loo Palace with its beautiful flower beds and fountains.

Homes have lovely yards with flowers, great places for outdoor eating: Emma's back yard, Yvonne's home, with its interesting horse riding area and horse barn, the cosy back yards of Theo and Josette, and Oscar and Yang.

Architecture/Buildings

We really liked the architectural variety in The Netherlands - architecture we don't often see in Midwest USA such as windmills, castles, cathedrals, a palace; different places to stay such as spacious artistic Prinsverblijven in Breedenbroek our first impressive introduction to The Netherlands, hostels in Arnhem and Rotterdam, Queensway Apartments in Amsterdam; our great grandparents' places such as their home,

Pakkebie House (We understood that "pakkebie" means get a beer, which is ironic since our great-grandparents and grandparents were outspoken teetotalers), their church, St Helena's Church in Aalten.

Windmills seen/visited: Ooievaars Mill in Terwolde, Bolwerks Mill, The Mill of Bats, where we went inside the three levels to see how a grinding mill works.

Castles seen/visited: Anholt Castle in Germany, complete tour of Doorwerth Castle and grounds with Marien and Mimi as tour guides, Cannenburch Castle in Vaassen. We learned from Johan that various shutter designs on houses designated the land areas which belonged to specific castle owners/land owners.

Cathedrals/churches seen/visited: Zutphen Cathedral, St Helena's Church, Utrecht Dom and Church, St Viktor Catholic Church in Germany, St. Lubuinus Church and St Nicholas Mountain Church in Deventer, Apeldoorn Church now a three level office building.

The tour of the Loo Palace, courtyard, stables, sleigh and car collections, livery costumes, and gardens was amazing. In the palace, everything was wood: wooden floors, wooden walls, some wood painted like marble, artistically painted wooden fences. The paintings of all the kings and queens and their families was especially interesting because Johan knew the history of each - even the scandals about their behavior. The English style manicured symmetrical gardens are the most beautiful I've seen, with green grass, fountains and flowing water, beautiful flowers, statuary; absolutely lovely.

We liked seeing the old and the new. In Amsterdam and Rotterdam, we liked the tall narrow step roof buildings with hooks for moving furniture contrasted with the wide brick houses in Gelderland, the canal bridges in Amsterdam and Utrecht; the beautiful old buildings in Bronkhorst the smallest city in The Netherlands and in Hattem at the medieval festival; in Rotterdam - the cube apartments set on end, the pencil shaped building, the Erasmus swan bridge, the harbor buildings we saw on the harbor tour, the Netherlands Institute of Architecture, the 1933 Sonneveld Nieuwe Bouwen style house, the New York Hotel; in Utrecht the square cube college dorm apartments; in The Hague the government buildings inside and outside; in Amsterdam the apartment buildings, homes, and commercial buildings.

Art

The paintings of the Dutch master artists and those that were not as familiar were a pleasure to see. We visited Kröller-Müller Museum near Apeldoorn, the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Mesdag Panorama Museum in The Hague. The panoramic painting of Scheveningen beach with the Hague in the background was so realistic, it was hard to believe that it was a circular painting and we weren't really in that area. I especially liked seeing all the Van Gogh paintings from the various periods of his

work. We saw the original Night Watch by Rembrandt, the Milk Maid and Girl With The Pearl Earring by Vermeer as well as other works by Rembrandt and Vermeer. At the four museums we also saw works by Jan Toorop, Toorop family members, Johan Anton de Jonge, and other fine artists.

Transportation

We appreciated the trains which could take us almost anywhere in The Netherlands, and the buses, trams, and the subway that could take us to places in Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Impact of World War II

Visiting Airbourne Museum in Arnhem with its artifacts and information on the fight over the Arnhem Bridge on the Rhine River, the bridge too far in Deventer over the IJssel River, where the movie was filmed, bombed out St Viktor Catholic Church; the Anne Frank House was eye-opening. We learned just how much impact World War II had on The Netherlands, and the involvement of both Americans and Netherlanders - something neither country should ever forget.

Impact of The Netherlands

Before we left the USA, a "cold Somsen" said that people wouldn't tour The Netherlands unless they had relatives there, but since most of us had relatives there, we relatives decided to tour only in The Netherlands for fourteen days, and not to tour in Germany. On our return to the USA, both "hot and cold Somsens" agreed that the homeland of our grandparents and the current home of many of our relatives is a beautiful, interesting place of old and new worlds, kind and helpful people, and good food. We all were glad we had spent the time in The Netherlands and hope to return.

These are my personal remembrances of only seventeen days in The Netherlands. It is an incomplete summary of a country, and perhaps inaccurate remembrance, but a visit I will never forget.

60 Years married - a very long time!

by Henk C. Reijnen [2897]

On December 30, 2008 Johan Dirk Somsen [1085] and Meta Catharina Somsen - Eskes [1206] celebrated their 60th wedding-anniversary.

As a smart storm trooper Johan immediately met his Meta when he disembarked from The Indrapura, the ship that had brought him home from Indonesia.

On her kitchen-towels there was embroidery saying: "My kitchen should be clean and pure". And that was what their kitchen was like in those days and, even though it is their fourth kitchen, it still is. But Johan is also clean and pure and he smells deliciously when he

goes out in the evenings to his painting-classes. Am I well-dressed? Dad is going out. But then, he has a very nice art-teacher.



The 60-year bridal couple

It was the children's task to organise a beautiful day together with the grandchildren on the first great-grandchild and they have succeeded in doing so. Friends and relatives, although the circle is getting smaller and smaller, and in particular quite a few nephews and nieces have contributed to this unique party. The mayor was the first one for a visit and as soon as you visit the Somsens you will be immersed in conversations about the good old days.

Children and grandchildren sang a great many songs which were sung at the various wedding-anniversaries. Also the old song "There is a bridle hanging on the wall", which used to be very popular in 1948 when Johan and Meta got married, was sung by all the people present to the accompaniment of musical instruments. One of Meta's favourite songs, "The Rough Wooden Cross", was performed by her son-in-law and her grandson on clarinet and keyboard.

But the elderly couple themselves also had to take turns. The first songs they taught their children when they were young were sung again. Thanks to the internet it was easy to retrieve the complete texts of these songs and of course they had to sing them. It is true, there were not so many tears as in the past but sometimes emotions came to the foreground.



The family at the reception

Then the moment had come for a delicious cold and hot buffet. It not only looked gorgeous but it also tasted excellent. Even their great-grandson was really feasting on it. And the great advantage of such a buffet is that you can have nice conversations in between the courses for here is so much to talk about, especially when there are Somsen around.

It was a great party, indeed, and it was so good to meet the relatives that are still there once more. And...you celebrate your 60th wedding-anniversary only once. Mum and Dad, thanks a lot!

The Somsen weekend in IJzerlo

by Harry Somsen [146]

The Somsen weekend in IJzerlo on August 15 - 17, 2008 can again be seen as a success. In the course of the week various Somsens travelled to the campsite "'t Hoftijzer" to spend the Somsen weekend in their tent or caravan.

On Thursday night there was a board-meeting at Wim Somsen's house in De Heurne which is very close by. We looked back on the latest Somsen Horizon, the transfer of the Somsen website from the USA to The Netherlands and we took a look forward at the Somsen weekend and the new issue of Somsen Horizon. We observed that it is also difficult to publish two magazines a year because there is always a shortage of copy. The more Somsens hand in contributions, preferably with a few pictures, the easier it is for the editorial staff to publish a Somsen Horizon. So, please, tell us your stories if you think they could be interesting for other members of our family.

The weather was perfect which added to a very pleasant and very sunny weekend. There were several cycling tours in the surroundings and on Saturday afternoon we, traditionally, left for the Japikshuis on our bike and by car. There Mr Smit and Mr Veerbeek accompanied us again to the field so that we could have a look at the Somsen tree and carry out our annual inspection.



The Somsens round the tree

The tree was inspected from different angles and we could establish that it been taken care of very well. After presenting a bottle of Dutch gin all the people present drank a toast to the prosperous growth of the tree and to our distant ancestors and their offspring. Some of us also paid a visit to the Somsenhouse and had a look at the commemorative plaque there.



Early in the evening Brunsveld, our caterer, took care of an extensive barbecue

We enjoyed the food in the sun at the back of the farmhouse very much and since many Somsens stayed at the campground round the corner there was no risk of getting caught on the way back home with too much alcohol. Because of the beautiful weather the evening lasted until well after 11 p.m. and this enabled us to watch the eclipse of the moon that was very clear to be seen that night.



The Somsen outdoor café at the campsite at the back of 't Hoftijzer

Many stories were told, contacts were refuelled and a number of missing pieces of the Somsen puzzle were found. Theo Somsen from Vaassen showed us his beautiful volume with bound Somsen Horizons. They were done in the same style as the Somsen book of eleven years ago. Jan van Daatselaar, our treasurer, sold Somsen stamps and also a number of Somsen bags, old Somsen Horizons etc. The complete shop with Somsen articles was there.

After a quiet Sunday morning many Somsens went to Dinxperlo, about 2 miles from IJzerlo, in the afternoon where they witnessed the Achterhoek spectacle. A mix of street theatre, music and circus performances. Well over 45 acts could be admired under a golden sun and all the time Somsens bumped into other Somsens.

It certainly had been a successful afternoon. Later that day a number of the camping guests packed and returned home. Another group stayed for one more night at the campsite and left the following day.

These weekends always remind us of the great reunions we have had and they are always worth while. I am already looking forward to the next Somsen weekend on August 21 - 23, 2009. Lovely!

Camping weekend from August 21 - 23, 2009

This is already the 12th time that we organise the Somsen Camping Weekend in IJzerlo. There is a visit to our lime-tree at the Japikshuis on our programme on Saturday. The barbecue, always in a relaxed atmosphere, is on Saturday evening from about 7.15 p.m. The contribution is € 17,50 per person. For this you will get delicious food and free drinks. After that we clean up and do the dishes together.

On Sunday afternoon we could pay a visit to the Harvest and Folklore Day at the Smedekinck Museum in Zelhem which is also organised once a year by your editor.

And maybe you want to organise your own agenda without any other obligations. You are very welcome to that too.

Reserve these dates, we expect quite a few family members from far and near.

If you want to join the barbecue, please register at least two weeks in advance at Wim Somsen by phone or email.

Wim Somsen
Hoge Heurnseweg
7095 CJ De Heurne
Telefoon: 0315- 652115
E-mail: jwsomsen01@hetnet.nl

A weekend back to my father's roots: Eibergen

by Oscar Somsen [2040]

In the weekend of October 11 and 12, 2008 we went with my father, Ben Somsen [438] and my mother, Corry Houpst [439], for a search to the places of his youth. That was a very special experience about which I would like to tell something. I must admit, though, that

is rather hard to convey the feeling I had when we saw the house where he was born for the first time, or the house where my grandparents were married. Visitors to one of our great reunions may recognize this feeling. The relation with the past which you experience when meeting somebody you have never heard of but who is still a relative.

But let me start at the beginning. Years ago a friend of mine provided me with this idea. He himself had been on a quest to the places of his father's youth, together with his father and he had heard stories he had never heard before. In the spring of 2008 the time was right for it and we presented my father with a gift voucher for his birthday to go for a long weekend trip together with my mother and my brother Arnold's [2041] family and my family.

On the morning of Saturday 11, October 2008 we all met at a pub near Eibergen, a village about 13 miles from Aalten, where my father was born on May 3, 1938. There we met Dick Somsen, a cousin of my father's, who has lived in Eibergen all his life and who could tell us a lot about the environment. But most important was that he knew how the family had come to live in Eibergen. It had been my great-grandmother who moved from Aalten to Eibergen in 1924 with her second husband. Farmland near Aalten was better than near Eibergen but it had become very scarce. Therefore it was still attractive to move to Eibergen. First the family moved into a farmhouse at the Groenloseweg and after retirement they moved into Mallum House, just outside Eibergen. Fortunately the farm and the house are still there.



Mallum House in Eibergen

In particular Mallum House must have been very special. On the grounds there was still another farmhouse which was so small that it could only be used as a stable and there was an old inn, mainly uninhabitable, though, but still it was inhabited by an uncle. The farmhouse is still there and has been changed into a separate dwelling house. Unfortunately the old inn has disappeared.

In Eibergen we watched the old town hall for a long

time. There is a very old small picture with my grandparents Johan Gerhard Somsen [363] and Willemina Klijn Hesselink [364] on their wedding-day, April 8, 1937.

I did not even know where my grandparents were married. But now we were standing in exactly the same place. In front of a door which looked exactly the same. Many details were still to be found such as the little wholes in the wall where once the plate with the house number must have been, which is still visible in the picture. It is a place where we will certainly return. We took a picture of my parents there with a young descendant of the family who had no idea what we were doing.



**At the town hall in Eibergen.
Left: Quinten Somsen [5522]
with his grandparents Ben
and Corry Somsen.**

Our next visit was to my father's birthplace at the Klaashofsweg. This place was the introduction to the next big removal of which I knew a little more. It is the house in which my grandparents lived just after they got married and just before my father was born. My grandfather, who was a carpenter, built it himself on a site he had bought some time before. But it was here where the tragedy started for it was in the middle of the crisis and there was no employment for a carpenter in Eibergen. There was in Ede, though, for they were constructing barracks there. So the young family moved 60 miles westwards after having lived in their own house for less than one year. That must have been a huge distance in those days. Nobody actually knows what it meant to my grandparents losing their house and home. Many years later cousin Dick sometimes saw them walking past their old house together. Starting from the Ede episode the history is more familiar to me. There I visited my grandparents very often, after all. But we had not finished in Eibergen at all. We arrived at Mallum House where my father used to visit his grandparents. There many stories broke loose. Especially of the days that my father went there with my mother for visits. How they always thought that everybody in the west of Holland was starving. At every visit they were given big sausages to take home. And then the story about the beautiful antique tiles that had disappeared one day because a sly tradesman had changed them for modern and of course much better

formica ones.

From there we drove to Rekken, a few miles to the East on the German border, to a farmhouse where my grandmother was raised. This must have been a very remote place. Eibergen could only be reached by bus but from Eibergen to Rekken there was only a sandy road. My father remembers having been in Rekken as a child but he doesn't know anymore how they got there. They can actually only have walked there. He never spent the night there so that means that they had to walk the total distance in one day. Only on Sundays the farmer went to church in Eibergen by coach. According to my father's memory the carriage was standing behind the door of the big stable for the rest of the week. The stable was still there. Next to the big door there were two smaller ones: behind one there was the horse and behind the other one the cow.

We saw a lot more during that weekend. The denominational school in Ede where he did not have classes for nearly a year at the end of the Second World War, the technical school in Wageningen where he could join his father, who worked in the neighbourhood, for a fag. After these places and many others as well and after all these stories we arrived at Breukelen on Sunday afternoon: the place where my parents were married. We have not finished yet and we will also have to recall my mother's youth. So we will have to arrange another "back to the roots" weekend. We can strongly recommend this to everybody.

Somsen wooden shoes - 100 years old

by Irene Somsen - Johnson [832]

Making wooden shoes was a popular trade among the farmers of the Achterhoek so as to generate some extra income during the winter months. Jan Hendrik Somsen brought along his tools when he emigrated to America in 1881.



**The clogmakers tools brought from the
Netherlands (foto Emma Somsen)**

Jan Hendrik Somsen [308], my husband Donald Somsen's [831] Grandfather, his Grandmother and three small children emigrated to America from Aalten, the Netherlands in July of 1881 and settled in Baldwin, Wisconsin. Jan Hendrik Somsen brought along his Wooden Shoe Making Tools, a profession he knew very well.

Besides his farming he made a living making wooden shoes for the neighbours. Willow and Basswood trees were plentiful on the farm. One of the pair of shoes was made for a little girl in about 1911 who will soon be celebrating her 101st birthday. Her daughter gave the shoes to Donald, knowing they should be in the family. Little Madison Lee Reed, the 2-year-old Great-Granddaughter of Donald and Irene Somsen is shown wearing the shoes, just like Great Grandpa.



**Madison Lee Reed and
her great-grandfather
Donald Somsen**

What a wonderful remembrance of Jan Hendrik's workmanship, and passed down 6 generations to his Great-Great-Great-Granddaughter.

Request

On September 4 and 5 Lois Wernlund McEvoy [3862] from Texas is visiting The Netherlands together with her daughter Vicki. Lois is the granddaughter of Harmina Somsen [320], who was a daughter of Jan Hendrik Somsen [308], the second Somsen emigrant to the USA in 1881. Harmina was born in Aalten and left for the USA as a three-year-old child.

I met Lois during a visit to the US in 1998 and again in 2002 at the reunion in Baldwin (WI) and she turned out to be very interested in our family history.

Are there any people who would like to do something together when she is in Holland in September?

The programme is still open but we could think of a visit to Amsterdam where she is staying. Or we could organise a Somsen-tour to a number of Somsen-sites in The Achterhoek with a pancake-dinner at Erve Kots to close.

Those who are interested or who have any suggestions are kindly requested to contact Johan Somsen: johan.f.somsen@wxs.nl

Herbert Somsen from Aalten left for Port St. Lucie in the Sunshine State: Florida.

by Herbert Somsen [543]

I was born in Lintelo, Aalten on 09-08-1966 as son of Bernardus Christiaan Somsen [513] and Hermien Somsen- Klanderman [515] and grew up at the farm of my parents. Now I do research in first class seeds in American soil.

After primary school I was educated at the lower and secondary agricultural school where I specialised in dairy farming skills and dairy industry. After I graduated in 1985 I worked at a mixed dairy farm for a year. My dream was to be a dairy farmer but it did not turn out that way. In 1987 I got a job at Hoopman, a seed company in IJzerlo, Aalten. The company name was changed into Hoopman International Seed Technology in 1990. From 1991 to 1996 I went to America to train and help people at the American daughter: Seed Coating Company in Yuma, Arizona USA. I did this for five years: working 5 months per year in Yuma and the other time in IJzerlo, Netherlands.

Meanwhile I had got to know a nice lady and I decided to settle in Yuma for good in 1996. After a couple of years the company moved to Gilroy, California, and I moved along and settled in San Juan Bautista, a town near Gilroy. After I married in 2001 I started working for a similar company in Florida. In 2002 my wife and I took our belongings and moved to Florida where we bought a house. Here I concentrated more and more on research. Unfortunately a hurricane damaged our home in 2004. And there was some damage in our marriage as well so that we finally divorced in 2005. In beautiful Florida I found a new girl-friend, Carmen Rodrigues from Puerto Rico, with whom I live together now.



**Herbert Somsen [543] and Carmen Rodriguez
[5966] in front of their home with a trumpet
flower, the flower of the State of Florida**

In Florida I am active in the development of seed coating and the incorporation of beneficial chemicals, especially concentrating on seeds that are small and

difficult to handle such as lettuce seed. Seeds are coated and changed into pills, all equally big for ease of handling and for better results with precision sowing. Coatings first were developed for cereal seeds in the 1930's. Large scale commercial use of coating began in the 1960's with precision sowing for the European greenhouse transplant industry.

Seed coating relies on technology developed by the pharmaceutical industry to make medicinal pills. The result is very strong seed which can be sown in a most effective manner and which yields large crops.

When California outlawed the short handled hoe in the mid 1970's, the use of coated seed for precision field seeders increased.

Precision sowing greatly reduced the number of skips and doubles in soil blocks or cell trays for transplants. Field precision sowing spaced seeds and thus, individual seedlings sufficiently to permit accurate thinning with a long handled hoe, while reducing damage to the root systems of remaining plants.

The combination of U.S. field precision seeding and greenhouse transplant production created a demand for high quality coatings to achieve accurate sowing, satisfactory seedling emergence and stand establishment. This area is where our company plays a role for research in coatings development and seed coating machinery development.

We have partner companies and clients in more than 15 countries around the world and we are still growing. In the United States, the major high-volume vegetable crop being using seed coatings is lettuce. Roughly 95,000 Ha (235,000 acres) are sown with coated seed.



Lettuce crops planted by machine

Carrot, celery, endive, onion, pepper and tomato also are coated to a significant extent. Begonia is the flower crop most frequently sown in coated form. Impatiens, marigolds and petunias are also coated commercially and the market for coating these and other species is growing strongly. Alfalfa and tobacco are two agronomic crops that are coated.

(Adapted by the editor)

Newspaper delivery is healthy work

by Harry Somsen [146]

Every Wednesday afternoon, for 24 years, Bernardus Christiaan Somsen [513], 80 years of age, and his wife Hermina Johanna Somsen - Klanderman [515] 75 years, have cycled from the Prinsenstraat in Aalten to deliver the weekly newspaper 'Aalten Vooruit'.

Every Wednesday morning Bernard arrived early in the depot of Joke Schulingkamp to see if the 'Aalten Vooruit' had already arrived. "I may have driven them mad from time to time", Bernard reflects. Early in the afternoon Bernard and Hermien took to the streets together for their weekly paper round. In "their" area Lintelo they knew every farmer, and often had a little chat.



Bernard and Hermien sitting on top of their newspapers.

Their sons also delivered newspapers, in their high school years, but they stopped doing so because they got a job or because of studies. Their parents, however, did continue. "I'm not much of a cyclist myself", says Bernard, "but while delivering newspapers you're busier getting on or off your bike than actually riding it". Still he is glad they've found a couple of enthusiastic youngsters to take over their round. However, 'Aalten Vooruit' readers will need to be more patient than the last 24 years, because these school going boys are unable to deliver the paper as early in the afternoon as the Somsen-couple used to do.

After 24 years of delivering newspapers the couple were rewarded a nice bunch of flowers and a present by depot holder Joke Schulingkamp.

The Somsen children also commemorated this milestone, surprising their parents with a dinner and more flowers. Of course they will keep on riding their bicycles, but they no longer need to go out every Wednesday.

Source: Aalten Vooruit 09-07-2008

Municipality of Aalten honours Rudolf Brunsveld

by Harry Somsen [146]

During the summer festival of 2008 the municipality of Aalten honoured the Somsen caterer Rudolf Brunsveld with a royal decoration: he became a member of the Order of Oranje Nassau.

The mayor of Aalten, Mr. Berghoef, pinned the decoration on Rudolf's lapel. This decoration came as a complete surprise to him, but he received it deservedly. Rudolf was totally unaware and appeared in his baker's clothes and his wife was still wearing her apron.



Rudolf Brunsveld together with his wife and his decoration

Next to his very busy daily life as a baker and grocer he labours for the local society "Ons Aller Belang" (for our common interest), for the mixed choir "Friendship", for the elementary school "'t Wamelink", for the Orange Society and for the reserve police.

Also his wife shared in the festivities; she was given a beautiful bunch of flowers. Together they enjoyed a warm applause and a musical homage by the musical society Crescendo.

Rudolf caters for us when we have our annual barbecue during the Somsen Weekend and he was also our caterer at the Worldwide Somsen Reunion in 2007.

50 years married

Gezinus (Gus) Somsen [97] and Pieterella Cornelia (Elly) [469] Velders from Hogeveen celebrated their 50th wedding-anniversary together with their children and grandchildren on May 9, 2008. On May 10



they celebrated this jubilee together with their brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends. The weather was magnificent and on this Saturday all the guests at the reception could sit outside.

This is how you get on television

by Theo Somsen [227]

Then one day there is an invitation lying on your doormat: if you would be so kind as to attend the pre-selection of a popular national TV quiz. And then you go of course.

Sneaky doings

Hester van der Zaan, daughter of my friend and colleague and fellow villager Jan van der Zaan thought that Jan and I had enough knowledge at our disposal to take part in the TV quiz "Twee voor Twaalf" (two to twelve). She had put forward this idea once before but Jan and I didn't feel like it. Hester did, though, and in secret she entered us conspiring with her mother Greet and with my wife Josette, because all kind of forms had to be completed and passport photographs had to be supplied.



Hester van der Zaan

The pre-selection

Phase 1 was a success: without realising we survived the written selection. When subsequently the invitation arrived in which we were invited to check in for a knowledge test we were in the middle of phase 2. So Jan and I drove to the VARA studio in the media-park in Hilversum in September 2008. 25 couples had been invited that day for a written test. We were sitting at long tables separated from each other and each had to answer 100 questions within one hour. Everything by heart and no multiple choice.

During the lunch the answers were checked and then we had to wait for the results. Well, 90% of the couples were thanked cordially and received a bag with VARA gadgets as a souvenir and could go home. Jan and I, though, were invited to come to the presenter, Astrid Joosten, and the deviser of the questions, Ruud van Marion. That was a big surprise and I understood that both Jan and I had more than 50 correct answers (the

minimum criterion) and together more than 75 (for you have to complement each other).

For that matter, it was the second time that I met Astrid Joosten for on January 23, 1992 British Petroleum opened a new branch at the new Transport Centre Twente near Oldenzaal where the main customs office of the Enschede area was also situated. Astrid Joosten had been invited as lady-speaker on that occasion and she interviewed a great number of managers among whom there was the head of the Internal Revenue Service of the Enschede area and I happened to be that person at the time.

Of course we never talked about this when busy with the quiz.

Belgium (Flanders) - Netherlands: first round

Phase 3: On February 23, 2009 recordings were made for the broadcasting on February 26.

Beforehand we met our opponents: the married couple Fons de Clerck and Marjan Mattez, two Flemings from Ghent (Belgium). They were very friendly people, indeed, who love The Netherlands equally much as I



Astrid Joosten and Theo Somsen 1992

love Flanders!

After having been made up and after that we had been shown the ropes in the studio with no less than twelve people (camera, sound, direction etc.) the H-hour began.



Jan van der Zaan and Theo Somsen

Our allocation of tasks was as follows: Jan was to answer the questions and I was to look up the answers which we could not immediately produce.

Both Jan and I felt very relaxed and had no difficulty at all with the first two questions. Jan knew the answer to the first one and I knew the second one. That gave us confidence!

But in short: out of 12 questions we managed to produce 8 correct answers right from the start. I had to look up the answers to the remaining four questions and that cost time and points. I could find the answers to two of the four, one answer was wrong and I was unable to find the last one. Finally we had a score of 10 out of 12 and as a result also 10 letters of a word we had to put together. After "buying" four letters, which cost us points again, we found that the word had to be "geldschieder" (moneylender), which was correct and therefore we got some extra bonus points.

Belgium (Flanders) - Netherlands: second round

After our performance we could take a seat and watch our Flemish opponents. We were hopeful for they had to look up more answers and that cost points!

Marjan, though, turned out to be much better in looking up the answers than me so that saved them. They also managed to put the new word together and their total score turned out to be higher than ours. It was nice of Astrid Joosten to ask us if we knew the answer to one of the questions they had missed and "of course" we knew, but that didn't help us anymore...

Reactions afterwards

Jan and I have enjoyed every minute of it! And we received many (very often unexpected) friendly reactions from acquaintances from all over the country who watch this quiz every week and who had seen Jan and me perform to their big surprise.

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:

02-11-2007: Amália [5970], d.o. Miguel Somsen [467] and Rita de Almeida Fernandes [5967]

25-06-2008: Tymo Ben [5971], s.o. Arnold Edgar Somsen [2041] and Thirza Altagracia Beaumont [4821]

10-04-2008: Boaz Berend [5979], s.o. Franciscus Antonius Nicolaas (Franck) Hogervorst [4933] and Isolde Elise Somsen [550]

18-05-2008: Eva Dorothée [] d.o. Robert Jaap Somsen [255] and Susanne te Pas []

27-05-2008: Megan Isabella [6036], d.o. Richard van der List [5758] and Adrie van Dijk [185]

26-08-2008: Silvano Rath [5984], s.o. Kay Somsen [1200] and Desiree Rath [5983]

17-09-2008: Claire Anastasia [6383], d.o. Robert Merwin Cummings [6371] and Leah Stello [6382]

21-10-2008: Timo Oskar Ferdi [5978], s.o. Gerhard Oskar Friedrich Killian [5977] and Natascha Joanne Somsen [2882]

28-11-2008: Bo Ramon [5990], s.o. Jelle Spruijt [5989] and Kim Rhaisa Somsen [700]

14-02-2009: Sven Senne Marijn [6156], s.o. Bernd Somsen [1277] and Marjolijn Frederieke Korevaar [5487]

07-04-2009: Lukas Emanuel [6414], s.o. Guido Reijnen [5456] and Janine Petra Schoch [5457]



**Amalia
Somsen**



**Tymo Ben
Somsen**



**Megan Isabella
van der List**



**Timo Oskar
Ferdí Kilian**



**Bo Ramon
Spruijt**



**Lukas Emanuel
Reijnen**

Married:

20-06-2008: Jasper Roald Somsen [1197] and Frederica Paulina Jochiena (Jolanda) Gouda [5982]

Registered Partnership:

27-10-2008: Niels Somsen [1199] and Kathlene Schuurman [5985]

Deceased:

13-07-2001: Willemina Johanna (Hanna) Huinink [1397], 86, Ommen

07-10-2004: Arend Tibben [3751], 89, Ommen

17-12-2005: Jozina (Josien) van Rooijen [3748], 89, Grimsby, ON. Canada

01-07-2007: Margaret Plasier [5193], 85, Ontario, CA. USA

19-12-2007: Duane Donald Pedersen [2659], 83, Othello, WA. USA

12-02-2008: Joe Zuidema [3202], 90, Holland, MI. USA

08-03-2008: Eugene Robert Byrne [2790], 86, Janesville, WI. USA

16-03-2008: Doyle Albert (Tim) Tousley [828], 86, Bemidji, MN. USA

25-05-2008: Evertine Hermanna (Tine) Somsen-Schotman [675], 80, Wassenaar

07-07-2008: Arnold Somsen [50], 84, Alphen aan den Rijn

05-12-2008: Grada Johanna Somsen-Oldenhove [978], 91, Aalten

24-01-2009: Bernard Hendrik (Bernard) Huinink [1401], 85, Woodstock, ON. Canada

22-02-2009: Grada Hendrika Cernéus-Somsen [1799], 83, Eibergen

12-06-2009: Margaretha Marianne (Greetje) Somsen-Tol, [152], 76 jaar, Heemstede

Photo back: Winter in Epe, seen through the lens of Johan Somsen

