



# Somsen HORIZON

Volume 28 - number 37 - December 2025

THE END? OH NO!  
A NEW BEGINNING!



Family video of 1997: See our website: [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org) !

- Message from the President
- Renewed Website!
- Somsen Horizon 1998-2025
- In memoriam Joseph Don Somsen

- Somsen Newsletters 2009-2022
- Jan and Anna in Baldwin (3, conclusion)
- Genealogy and Family Announcements
- New Year's Greetings

## SOMSEN FOUNDATION

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### **Objective of the Somsen Foundation**

#### **The aim of the Foundation is to:**

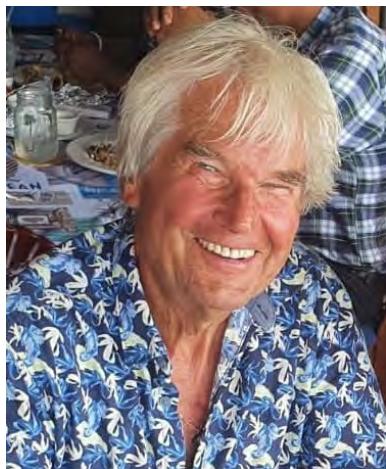
to preserve and promote solidarity between persons who bear the surname Somsen, who are or were related to them, or who are interested in them.

#### **The Foundation tries to achieve its goal by, among other things:**

- \* conducting historical research into regional and family history;
- \* collecting historical documentation and genealogical data;
- \* the creation and management of a (family) archive and databases;
- \* providing information to individuals, institutions and bodies.

**Design Somsen Horizon:** Bert Hanekamp

## Message from the President



It will undoubtedly not have escaped your notice that our family foundation has sailed a very quiet course in recent years. When we met in that beautiful summer of 1997 with more than 400 Somsens, coming from many countries such as Germany, Greece, Portugal, Norway and the USA, at the place of our roots, we were able to experience a large number of years of enormous vitality. What wonderful experiences we have shared with each other. I will not lose myself in a complete list here, but I would like to bring a few to your attention. Every five years we organized reunions. Alternately in the Netherlands and the USA. All great. And for years we have held our Somsen camping weekends in IJzerlo, the place of our origin. What a party they were. And not to forget the beautiful boat trips on our rivers with accompanying visits to ancient cities. But the ravages of time have also made their influence felt in our foundation. After 20

years in which Theo Somsen [227] and myself have each been able to wield the gavel with great pleasure for about 10 years each, we had to contend with different times. There were gaps in the old generation and fortunately a younger generation, Oscar Somsen [2040], kept our foundation afloat for a number of years, but in that same youthful generation there was no possibility of continuing with it. This is absolutely not a reproach but has a lot to do with the developments in our society.

Theo, Harry Somsen [146] and I then agreed to take over again to try to guide our foundation into the new era. Harry has done a great job but unfortunately, he is no longer with us. Theo has also been an excellent engine in recent years, and I have only been able to make a minimal contribution due to medical circumstances.

Yet luck also smiles on us. Dirk Somsen [136], the son of Dick Somsen [130], our genealogy expert, has taken over all his father's files after his death and is willing to take it seriously. And can assure you that he tackles this with gusto. He, together with two nephews, both grandchildren of Dick [130], has given the website a new face and has also made other positive changes. Thanks also to these grandsons of Dick: Mark de Groot [138] and Tom de Groot [139]. And we can also count ourselves lucky with Berto Somsen [423] who has previously held a place on our board. He has joined us again and we are very pleased about that.

You may already know that we will continue to send our family magazine only digitally. For this it is necessary that we have as many e-mail addresses as possible of Somsens and related Somsens. Send us as many as possible: [info@somsen.org](mailto:info@somsen.org) In this way, we can let the fire burn for quite a few years until perhaps a new impetus arises in later generations, because it would be a shame if so many research results just disappear.

You can always visit our family website [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org) and there you can view our complete genealogy. You can request the access code and the password for this at [info@somsen.org](mailto:info@somsen.org) I wish you a lot of pleasure browsing through our family history and last but not least I wish you a happy and above all healthy 2026.

Johan Somsen [1089]

## Renewed Website!

by Dirk J Somsen [136]

Earlier this year, the board met in Halsteren (NB) and expressed the wish to investigate whether our website could be converted to a version that is easier to maintain.

Since I have been able to publish updates to the genealogical database in recent years, I was somewhat familiar with its structure and other content. However, with my limited knowledge of (website) matters, it was still quite difficult for me to update the website.



*Johan, Dirk and Theo Somsen (Halsteren - Noord-Brabant - July 12, 2025)*

Together with my cousins Mark [138] and (especially) Tom de Groot [139], we have worked hard in recent times to set up a new and much more modern environment, in which it is much easier to add new information and which is also visually attractive.

Fortunately, we were able to transfer a large part of the beautiful content about the Reunions and the Archive of Somsen Horizons and Newsletters from the previous environment 'one-to-one' to the new environment, and it will not require maintenance there. Thus, this new environment has become a nice compromise between preserving the good and being ready for the future ! We expect to further expand the content and functionality soon, so be sure to come back and check [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)

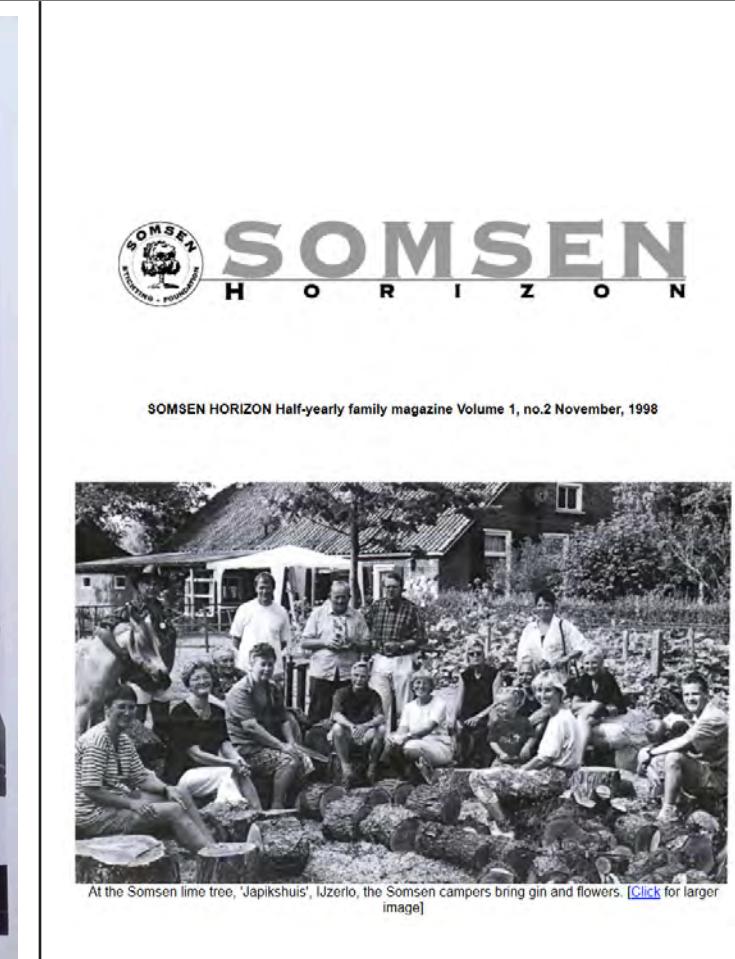
## Somsen Horizon 1998-2025

In 1997, the very first Worldwide Somsen Reunion was held in Aalten, with more than 400 participants. During this unforgettable gathering, the family book 'Somsen Omnes Generationes' was presented, and the beautiful film 'Somsen Panorama' premiered.

The event was such a resounding success that the Somsen Foundation was established. This led to six more reunions, alternating between the USA and the Netherlands, along with many other activities. From 1998 to 2025, the family magazine 'Somsen Horizon' was published.

Now that the magazine will no longer be issued, you'll find here all the covers of the 37 editions published so far. These covers show the articles featured in each issue. The complete contents of every edition can be found on our website [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)

We hope this brings back fond memories for you!





SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 2, no.3 May, 1999



It is not only important the way you go but also the trace you leave behind.

Future supporters...?

A row of children of the fourth generation of the Doesburg Somsen branch, who traditionally have their camping weekend in Hummelo at Whitsuntide.

From left to right: Tessa [4045], Lisette [1609], Fleur [3710], Jasper [2583], Tim [4046], Anne [1608], Evaline [4027], Greet [53] second generation and Laura [1630].



FROM THE ACHTERHOEK KITCHEN

TAKE-OFF TO BALDWIN, WI.

GURU AND PASTOR

CHRISTMAS 1944 AT THE SOMSENHOUSE  
TWO SOMSENS AT THE MULTINATIONAL SIEMENS



SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 2, number 4 November 1999



FIRST LUSTRUM

AN ARNHEIM GIRL IN AALTEIN  
CAMPING WEEKEND

THE SOMSENS IN HOENDERLOO  
'AND THEN YOU LIVE IN A WILDLIFE PARK'



SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 3, number 5 May 2000



BIG SOMSEN FAMILY IN PORTUGAL  
SENSE OF TRADITION AWARDED  
CAMPING WEEKEND - HOLLAND WEEK  
A TRIP ON THE RIVER RHINE  
VISITORS FROM CANADA



SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 3, number 6 November 2000



# SOMSEN

H O R I Z O N

CONTRABASS PLAYER, COMPOSER: JASPER SOMSEN  
 ARNOLD SOMSEN IN THE FORGOTTEN BATTALION  
 EVERYTHING REVOLVES ROUND THE QUEEN BEE  
 THE BALDWIN LETTERS  
 SOMSEN FAMILY WEB PAGES



Please note that the links are now Acrobat PDF files. You will need Acrobat Reader (v3.0 or greater) in order to view them. **Most people already have this program.** Try to view the pages before resorting to a download. If you do not currently have it installed, it is available as a free download from:

<http://www.adobe.com/acrobat/readstep2.html>

SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 4, number 7 May 2001



# SOMSEN

H O R I Z O N



FARMHOUSE 'PAKKEBIE' AT DALE

SOMSEN REUNION USA  
 AUGUST 3 AND 4, 2002

OLD AND RARE BOOKS

A LETTER FROM  
 BEAUTIFUL SOUTH AFRICA

PHOTOS, BEN SOMSEN

BERNARD SOMSEN IN  
 WARTIME

SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 5, number 9 May 2002



# SOMSEN

H O R I Z O N

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001  
 GARDENER WITH HEART AND HAND  
 2002 WORLD WIDE REUNION, BALDWIN, WI. USA  
 IJZERLO AND THE SCHOOL UNTIL 1945  
 WEDDING IN FRANCE



SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 4, number 8 November 2001



# SOMSEN

H O R I Z O N

WORLD WIDE SOMSEN REUNION, USA

HENRY N. SOMSEN: A HOMAGE

PHOTO COLLAGE USA REUNION

A FAMILY VISIT TO THE USA

COLOUR ETCHING, A CRAFT



SOMSEN HORIZON Half-yearly family magazine Volume 5 number 10 November 2002



# Somsen horizon

Volume 6 - number 11 - May 2003

## Featuring:

Gree & Jan van Daatselaar-Somsen

Philip Somsen

Wim Somsen

Han Somsen

Drika Meinen-Somsen

Hennie & Paulien Somsen-Middelhuis

Hannie Somsen-Stroes



Half-yearly family magazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 6 - number 12 - November 2003

## Read more about:

Boat-trip  
May 14, 2004

Somsen Fashion  
1895-1993

Wedding in  
Alkmaar and Miami

Made of the right  
stuff

Remco:  
the one and only Son  
and Heir

A person who writes,  
will remain . . .

Hoopman:  
True to the Ground

Campingweekend



Half-yearly family magazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 7 - number 13 - May 2004

## Stories and stories again:

- A website for pilots and aviation fans
- Tea Circle Japanese style
- Where do the Mormon Somsens come from?
- From 'Dokken' Derk to 'Doctor' Derk
- An exceptional party!
- On horseback through the Pyrenean mountains
- This really happened to my dad
- A nearly forgotten girl's album of friends' verses



Half-yearly family magazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 7 - number 14 - November 2004

## New Adventures:

- Yankee in Paradise: A Dutch Diary
- Hoopman-years of a boy from Eibergen
- Dennis Somsen, the hero of Aalten
- The Apeldoorn Four-day-walking Tour
- Pool superintendent, do you know what a fly is doing in the milk?
- Julia Somsen makes friends with Paula Crist-Somsen
- Somsen Boattrip + Campingweekend



Half-yearly family magazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 8 - number 15 - May 2005

Brimful with exciting stories:

- The Dutch go Irish
- English pilot returns to the *Somsenhuus*
- The 'tragedy' of Aaltjen Somsen
- Born and bred in Baldwin, for sure
- Running through New York City
- Our (Sun)days in Baldwin 1949
- Stanley & Jeanne Somsen-Theobald



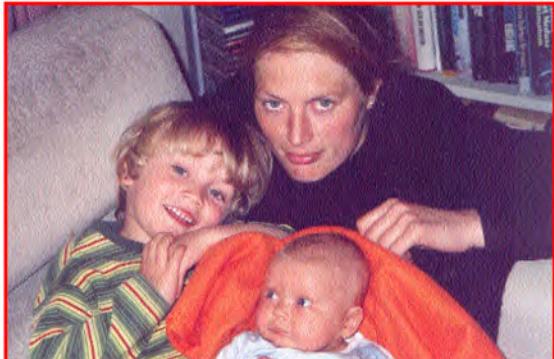
Half-yearly family magazine



# Som-

Volume 8 - number 16 - November 2005

Past, present and . . . future:



- Come to the 3rd Somsen Reunion in 2007!
- Somsen-Truckers
- Bitterly cold Holland
- Mimi inspects the dikes
- Marco defies a hurricane
- Liberated, but no clothes to put on
- An Acrostic from 1901
- Memories of Woodville, WI.
- Liberated: 60 years

Half-yearly family magazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 9 - number 17 - May 2006

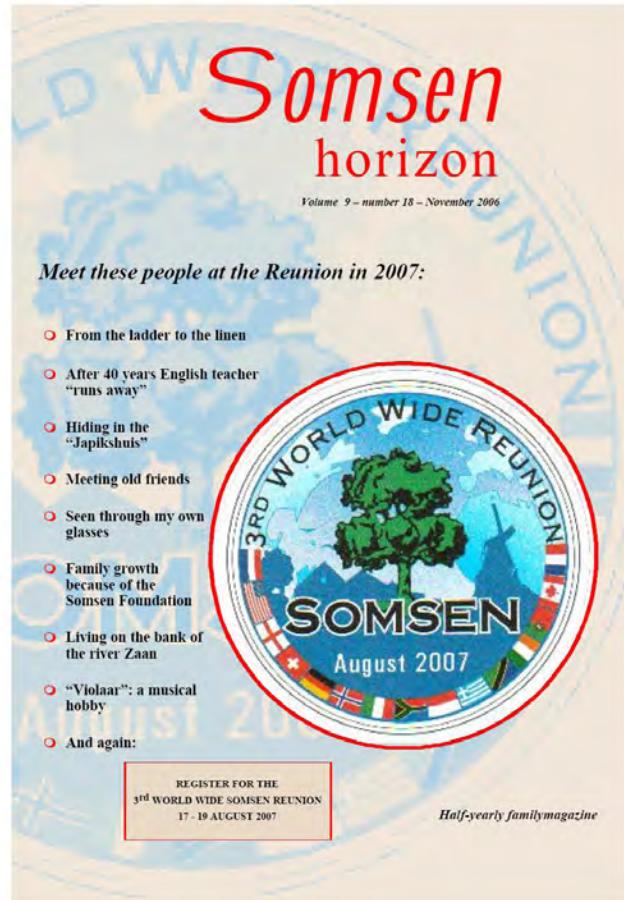
Splendid the way they do their best!

- Henk Somsen and the Groenlo Cannon
- Anja D'Angelo-Somsen: happiness in Denver, Colorado
- Harry Somsen and his puppet theatre
- Marieke Edwards-Jager Gerlings, a golden Somsen-daughter
- Patrick Somsen wants to reach the platform in cross-country cycling
- Ellen Somsen brings balance in work and life
- Hendrik Jan, Arend Jan and Gezins Somsen: a smilth in Hillegom
- And above all:



REGISTER FOR THE  
3RD WORLD WIDE SOMSEN REUNION  
17 - 19 AUGUSTUS 2007

Half-yearly family magazine





# Somsen horizon

Volume 10 - number 19 - May 2007

Back to our roots:  
Terug naar onze  
wortels!!!

- ◆ REUNION NEWS AND REUNION NEWS AGAIN ! and furthermore:
- ◆ The perpetual fight against water
- ◆ The Origin of Gelderland
- ◆ Reward for a tough weekend: a new motor cycle
- ◆ Cycling holiday in Cuba
- ◆ Without transport everything is paralysed
- ◆ What is that rooster doing on the church tower?
- ◆ Modern pilgrims
- ◆ Another volume of poetry by the inhabitant of the Somsenhuis

Half-yearly  
familymagazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 10 - number 20 - November 2007

## Reunion-special: in full colour

Everything about the 2007 Reunion like:

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



Half-yearly  
familymagazine



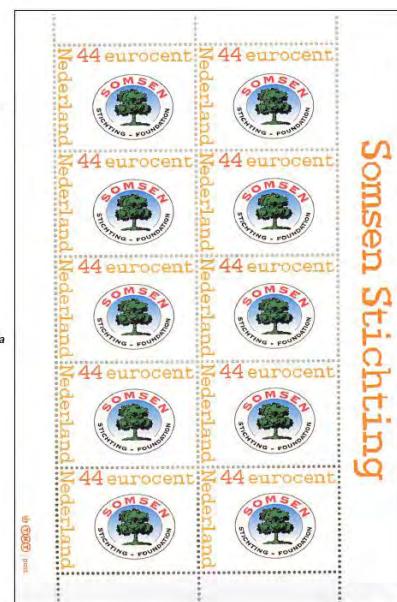
# Somsen horizon

Volume 11 - number 21 - May 2008

Landslide in Somsen Board

- ◆ A Farewell to Theo Somsen
- ◆ Our New Webmaster
- ◆ New Editor
- ◆ Somsen Drugstore Closed
- ◆ Publication "De Heurne in the immediate neighbourhood of Dinxperlo"
- ◆ Warm Welcome in California
- ◆ Camping Weekend
- ◆ Special Stamp Somsen Foundation
- ◆ Henry Northrop Somsen died at 98
- ◆ Patrick Somsen wants to excel in home match

Yearly familymagazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 12 - number 22 - May 2009

- ◆ New Horizons for Chris Somsen
- ◆ A step backwards in the Somsen history
- ◆ Pleasure on Ice
- ◆ The Somsens and The Netherlands through American eyes
- ◆ The Somsen weekend in Uzelo
- ◆ A weekend back at my father's roots: Elbergen
- ◆ Somsen wooden shoes - 100 years old
- ◆ Herbert Somsen from Aalten left for Florida
- ◆ Newspaper delivery is healthy work
- ◆ This is how you get on television



Yearly familymagazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 13 – number 23 – May 2010

- ❖ Pakkebier in Dale sold
- ❖ Johan Somsen hiked 490 km through the Netherlands
- ❖ Looking for Dutch New York
- ❖ Together 160 years old
- ❖ Reunion Gezinus Somsen's grandchildren with partners
- ❖ A European tour
- ❖ Riding school The Achterhoek
- ❖ Website: [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)
- ❖ The Viohaar
- ❖ Exposition of photographs and paintings
- ❖ How an outsider looks at the Somsen-family
- ❖ In Memoriam Geertrui Gezina Somsen
- ❖ Engelbart Somsen no Sunday's child
- ❖ Making the acquaintance of Jobim Zwarts
- ❖ In Memoriam Patricia George - Somsen
- ❖ In Memoriam Wanda Jean Somsen



# Somsen horizon

Volume 14 – number 24 – June 2011

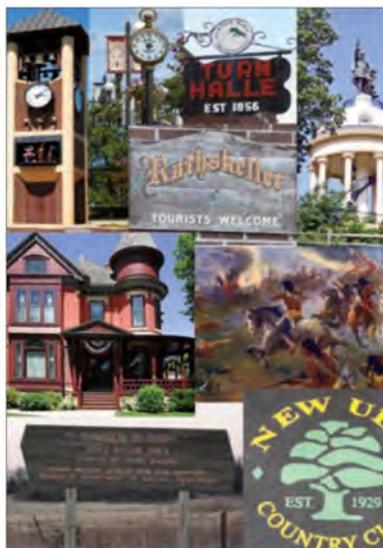
- ❖ Dan and Sue and the Superbowl
- ❖ Round trip South Africa
- ❖ Walk johan Somsen
- ❖ Small church - great painter
- ❖ Neighborhood
- ❖ Jan Somsen in Baldwin
- ❖ Gerda Johanna Somsen
- ❖ Baldwin reunion - memories
- ❖ Camping weekend
- ❖ Ad Somsen in Portugal
- ❖ Butter rationing cards
- ❖ Violet Elisabeth Somsen
- ❖ Word finder
- ❖ Somsen-Genealogy
- ❖ Photo collage Emma Somsen
- ❖ 4th Issue Somsen stamps



# Somsen horizon

Volume 15 – number 25 – May 2012

- ❖ 4th Worldwide Somsen Reunion
- ❖ Kidney transplant
- ❖ New Somsen stamp
- ❖ The Achterhoek under water
- ❖ Volunteer of the year
- ❖ Family barbecue
- ❖ Emma Somsen
- ❖ Update genealogical database
- ❖ Bente and Hedda - gymnastics
- ❖ Related to the Somsens
- ❖ Jasper Somsen - Jazz Musician
- ❖ The other side of the lines
- ❖ The Netherlands, water country
- ❖ Bound for America in 1934
- ❖ Marieke G. Edwards - Jager Gerlings
- ❖ Our new American financial contact: Stephen D. Somsen
- ❖ Paypal for donations USA



# Somsen horizon

Volume 15 – number 26 – October 2012

- ❖ Retrospect of Stephen Somsen
- ❖ Chocolate Cherry Cake
- ❖ Somsen Calendar
- ❖ Fourth Worldwide Reunion
- ❖ New discoveries
- ❖ A worldwide interview
- ❖ Dinner in the Country Club
- ❖ America trip
- ❖ The Somsen immigrants
- ❖ Visit to Bruce Crist
- ❖ 100 Somsens
- ❖ Hendrik Lammers deceased
- ❖ Donald Somsen deceased
- ❖ Louisa Mae Rice deceased
- ❖ Paypal for donations USA
- ❖ Family announcements



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# Somsen horizon

Volume 16 – number 27 – July 2013

- ❖ Family BBQ in IJzerlo
- ❖ Publication Monasso book
- ❖ The First World War: Somsen housed three Italian families
- ❖ Flood disaster Eibergen
- ❖ Oliebol
- ❖ Kinship line from Derk Jan Somsen to Guus Hiddink
- ❖ North Dakota and oil extraction
- ❖ Jasper Somsen, youth trainer at FC Den Bosch
- ❖ Happy Mother's Day 2013, Mom!
- ❖ Hester Somsen, the new Dutch Ambassador in Lebanon
- ❖ German raid into the Hogeweg school in Middenmeer in 1941
- ❖ Jan Hendrik, Derk and their descendants
- ❖ Jan Hendrik's Travelling Trunk
- ❖ Rustic Eggplant and Tomato Tart
- ❖ The songs of Grandma Hulinink-Somsen
- ❖ Norene Somsen passed away
- ❖ In memoriam Emma Somsen



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# Somsen horizon

Volume 17 – number 28 – September 2014

- ❖ A trip to "My People"
- ❖ "Downed Lancaster WW2 bomber ED 470 recovered in Zelhem (Holland)
- ❖ And then his eyes opened again
- ❖ Antique fireplace tiles from Pakkelder
- ❖ Our family in the war years in Amsterdam
- ❖ In the footsteps of Alice's father
- ❖ In Memoriam Liesel Somsen - Blecking
- ❖ Obituary Julia Somsen Quayle
- ❖ Somsen Genealogical Family File
- ❖ Family announcements
- ❖ Somsen calendar 2015
- ❖ Photo riding hall equestrian centre "de Achterzeek"
- ❖ Photo fireplace Pakkelder farm



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# Somsen horizon

Volume 18 – number 29 – July 2015

- ❖ Once upon a time... Somsen Eibergen
- ❖ A river cruise
- ❖ Keeping them out of the hands of the Americans
- ❖ Who fought in the Battle of Waterloo?
- ❖ More Dutch tools
- ❖ The coat of arms of the new municipality of Aalten
- ❖ Harry Somsen from Zelhem decorated
- ❖ Family barbecue on Saturday 22 August 2015 in IJzerlo
- ❖ John H. Somsen, Jr. passed away
- ❖ Somsen genealogical family database
- ❖ Family announcements



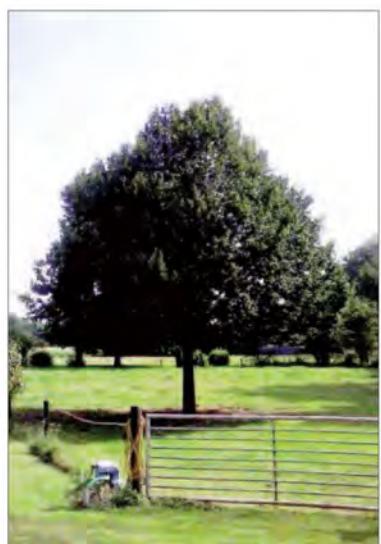
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# Somsen horizon

Volume 19 – number 30 – July 2016

- ❖ Worldwide Reunion in 2017? We urgently need assistance!
- ❖ Family Weekend Traditions
- ❖ The threshing machine of Bennie Somsen from Lintelo
- ❖ Tractor Festival
- ❖ A Somsen from Aalten in wartime, 1940 - 1945
- ❖ Granddaughters to be proud: Bentje and Hedda
- ❖ Roelof Somsen (1808-1891) received a distinction in 1832
- ❖ Father is waiting at Schiphol for his son on his last flight
- ❖ Somsen-Lenselink couple married for 60 years
- ❖ Ben Somsen: unforgettable
- ❖ Family Announcements



Yearly familymagazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 20 – number 31 – April 2017

- ❖ Preparation group 5th Worldwide Somsen Reunion 2017 presents itself
- ❖ Join us for the 5th World Wide Somsen Reunion! Uzerlo, July 7-9, 2017
- ❖ Mourning or fame, the national flags will be flown in Nieuwleusen
- ❖ Call New Board Members
- ❖ Reunion in The Lebanon
- ❖ Workshops Wim Somsen [440]
- ❖ Meet your family! Receive them at home!
- ❖ "The Violaar": a lifelong passion
- ❖ Workshop at Klimaatstraat party, 20 August 2016
- ❖ 2012 Worldwide Somsen Reunion
- ❖ Collecting stamps
- ❖ Family announcements



Yearly family magazine



# Somsen horizon

Volume 21 – number 32 – March 2018

- ❖ Call for new board members. Without you we cannot make it!
- ❖ Reunion group is leaving service
- ❖ 5th Somsen Reunion
- ❖ The video registration of the 5th Somsen Reunion
- ❖ Connect-to-our-roots-trip in Engelstad and the Netherlands
- ❖ Somsen Reunion 2017, Uzerlo Netherlands
- ❖ The Meekel family from Canada
- ❖ Reunion memories by Scott and Corinne Berksehl Baker
- ❖ Somsen day Uzerlo. Saturday September 1, 2018
- ❖ Is Somsen Horizon 32 the last Horizon?
- ❖ In memoriam Christina Geertruida Lammeren-Prinzen
- ❖ Memories of the Lammeren family of the Somsenhuis
- ❖ In memoriam Mimi Zwarts-Somsen
- ❖ Family Announcements



Yearly family magazine

SOMSEN HORIZON

Volume 22, Number 33, July 2019



# Somsen HORIZON

Volume 22, Number 33, July 2019

- Message from the Chairman
- Invitation Somsen Day, Uzerlo, Saturday, September 7, 2019
- Strong women of the Somsen-family
- Hedda Somsen [2848] and Ed Rice Jr. [3843] Half a year together in the Lab
- A book for the hamlet of Holterhoek near the town of Elburg
- Music in the Aalten potato barn
- Harry Somsen [146] Active
- Quinten Somsen [1780] in history
- Ben Somsen [438] tells about his father
- On a beautiful Somsen Day
- Joost Somsen [4043] One for the future
- Annual Report for the Somsen Foundation



Jo Hunse-Somsen [63], see inside to read her story. Strong women of the Somsen family'



# Somsen horizon

Volume 25 – number 34 – December 2022

- ❖ 8th Worldwide Somsen Family Reunion 2022 in Mosaics
- ❖ Updates From the August 2022 Worldwide Somsen Reunion in Holland, MI USA!!!
- ❖ Doesburg honors resistance fighter Frederik Hendrik Somsen 1918 – 1944 with nameplate

- ❖ America is one big Dutch symphony
- ❖ In memoriam Dick Somsen (1929-2022)
- ❖ Dutch touch
- ❖ A special marriage and ditto advertisement



Yearly family magazine



# Somsen

Newsletter 3  
January 2010



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# Somsen

## HORIZON

Volume 27 - number 36 - december 2024



Harry Marien Somsen (1946-2024)

### In this number:

- In memoriam Harry Somsen
- Quinten Somsen: Mountainbiker
- Liberation is something you never forget!
- At home in the past (1)
- Dutch Immigrants to Canada
- Two centenarians Somsens
- Jan and Anna Somsen in Baldwin (2)
- Christmas & New Year



## Memories of Joseph Don Somsen [2398]

*by his daughter Deanna Somsen-Adamson [2534] \**

At a small family gathering the three living along with spouses and one grandchild of Joseph Don Somsen reminisced over a picnic.

We decided to send those memories on to our family magazine “Somsen Horizon”!



*Joseph Don Somsen (named: Don)  
1918 - 1998*

Don Somsen was the youngest son of nine children born to Levi John Somsen [851] and Isabelle Maude Tanner [852]. Levi John was the second born son of Aaron John (Arent Jan) Somsen [753] and Antonia Jane Grooteboer [754].

As an adult, Don moved many times. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah; but he lived in South America, Oklahoma, California, and several places in Utah. He bought a home in Sandy, Utah in about 1964, and lived there the rest of his life. In 1948, he moved his family to Venezuela to work for an oil company as manager of their commissary.

While living in South America, his wife made two trips to Oklahoma to deliver their two youngest children in the United States. The family moved back to the United States in 1952 and made their home in Sacramento, California. From there Don moved his family back to Utah in about 1956.



*Don Somsen, ca. 1927*

We all remember Dad's love of travel. His father, Levi, often took him on business trips with him. Dad told Deanna (third child) that Levi came one day and asked if Don would like to go on a trip with him. Don sure did! His Dad told him to get his toothbrush and climb in the car. They got everything else they needed as they traveled!

Dad told his son Max Leroy [2535] that when his parents (Levi and Isabelle) moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for a new job, he (Don) decided not to go with them right away; but he took a train to see his brother Gene [2392] who was living in Southern California. When he said took a train, he meant he “rode the rails”. He rode in empty boxcars, avoided the train security or “bulls,” and saved his money for something else. He told Max that “riding the rails” was not so bad until the train had to go through a tunnel. At that point, all the black smoke from the coal burning engine would make its way into the boxcars.



25-11-1927: 25 jarig huwelijk Somsen-Tanner, Salt Lake City (UT)

I-r: John G. [2392], Lyman K. [2394], David E. [2396], Laren A. [2395] en Levi C. [2393]

I-r: Levi J. Somsen [851], Isabel E. [2397], Isabel M. Tanner [852] en Joseph D. [2398]

Eventually, Dad made it to his parents' home in Oklahoma City, covered in black soot. When his father opened the front door, he took one look at Dad and said, "Get in here before the neighbors see you!"

Nearly every Sunday morning when Deanna and Max were young teenagers, Dad would come wake them up and say, "Mom and I are going for a drive, do you want to go?" Sometimes they joined their parents and other times they would opt for sleeping in. But it was more fun to go on the trips. Don would head some direction or other, visit a new site or one seen many times and then head home in a different direction. He hated returning on the same road. It seemed like a waste to him when he had already seen that scenery. Trips with Dad could be long or short. He would make up games as they went to keep them entertained

like "How far is it to that mountain top?" All could give a guess how many miles it was and when they got to the designated spot, whoever had the closest guess won. Of course, it was usually Dad. Another game was finding as many states on license plates as possible or finding letters A to Z on the signs and billboards along the highway and naming the alphabet in order. Longer trips might find them far from home at night and Dad would find a motel with a vacancy (and a swimming pool for the youngsters if they were lucky!)’.

Dad had a word he claimed he made up. We are not sure how to spell it, but it was something like "Rootalite". It meant anything that Dad wanted, and he would make up songs using that word as we drove along. Sharon [872], Don's oldest child, shared a fun memory. When she was about 15, she entered

a contest of some sort at a well-known local jewelry store. Sharon won the contest, and her prize was a small diamond. She told Dad about winning the diamond and promptly forgot about the whole thing. A few weeks later, imagine her surprise when Dad gave her a small box. In the box were two matching diamond earrings. Dad had gone to the jeweler, claimed her diamond and bought another one that nearly matched it, and had them put into earrings for his daughter. She loved them and wore them whenever she went to church. Many years later she lost one of the earrings. She loved those earrings and did not want to tell Dad she had lost one! So, she went to the same jeweler, and they helped her find another diamond and made another earring to match the remaining earring. She never told Dad about losing one of the earrings.

Max Leroy Somsen [2535] writes:

"I was born the youngest of four children to Joseph Don Somsen and Dorothy Louise Roberts. Dad did not like to be called Joseph or Joe and we learned early in life if someone



Joseph Don & Dorothy Roberts

asked for Joseph or old Joe, we knew that he was not a friend but someone who wanted to sell something to Dad. People could call him Don, or his good friends would call him JD. I never asked him how JD came about. Dad was in the grocery business all my life, and I worked with him for some time at the grocery store. That is where I learned if a salesperson came to the store and asked for "old Joe or Joseph" that even if Dad was in the store, the answer to the salesperson was "He's out," or "gone to the bank or lunch." Just not there at that time. Dad was not a salesman's friend. He did not buy to get whatever promotion was up for that week; and I do not think he would ever go to lunch with anyone but himself. I had the opportunity to work with Dad for a few years during my high school years and a couple after. I watched how he treated his employees, and he was kind and concerned for each of them, but he was very stern on how he managed the store; and he did not like slothful workers. You learned how to do things his way which was the right way. He was a very fair man to work for and in my life, I tried to be as fair as he was when I got into the position of management. I had learned there is a right way, wrong way, my way, and your way; and just because it was your way did not mean it was the wrong way it was simply different than how I would have done it. He was a great mentor, and one could learn a great deal from him. I am sure, like most children, we did not learn as much as we could have".

One of Deanna's (third child) favorite memories occurred when she was about twelve years old: "I invited Dad to a Father-Daughter activity at our church. Dad was not active in church and hardly knew anyone there. I was so happy when he said he would come. But I also worried he would change his mind, especially when he said he would be a little late. He said to go on over to the church and he would come as soon as he could. While I waited for him, I filled out a name tag for him. I started out

trying to write Joseph Don on the tag but ran out of space on the tag. It read "JOSEPH." I was so happy when he came in the door! I put his name tag on him, and we played games, danced, and ate dinner. Dad was addressed as Joe or Joseph all night long. It never occurred to me that it was a problem, Dad was pleasant to all and never let on how much he hated being called by that name. However, when we got home that night, he turned to me and demanded to know why I had written Joseph on that tag! He was not angry, just puzzled that I printed a name he never used! I never made that mistake again!"

Deanna remembers Don did not like messes of any kind. "I think sticky messes were his top dislikes. We had to be careful to wipe off syrup and honey containers after every meal because if he went to use those bottles and found they were sticky, he was very vocal in his complaints.

"Once the family was on vacation and stopped at a restaurant to have breakfast. The waitress accidentally knocked Dad's plate of pancakes covered with lots of butter and syrup into his lap! My younger brother and I looked at each other and we both had the same thought. Dad was going to 'blow his top' and our vacation would be over! Imagine our surprise when Dad told the waitress, who was very flustered and practically in tears, "Don't worry about it, I can change clothes." And he promptly left the table and did just that. We were amazed at his calm polite demeanor! (He was always very patient and kind to people in public).

Same vacation...

Dad's boss loaned him a nice RV for the trip. We usually just drove in our car wherever we went and stayed in motels and ate at restaurants. I do not remember more than two times that we went camping. Dad liked his comforts. But he thanked his boss, and we started off on a new adventure in that big rolling 'motel.' Dad still stopped every night

and stayed in a motel! We had a perfectly nice restroom in the RV, but Dad did not let us use it! We had to laugh when he described climbing under the vehicle to find the waste disposal valve, pulling the lever and running to avoid the mess! We all knew it would work differently than that, but Dad was adamant about the situation. When we stopped for gas for the RV, we used the facilities at the station! It was a fun trip, just not as we expected it to be."

Don Allen Somsen [873] (second child, deceased 2022) told his wife Susan Tolley [2543] that Dad loved to play canasta, a card game. Don Allen said they played often, and he was pleased when he was able to win Dad! Don also told Susan many times how much he idolized his Dad Joseph Don and loved working with him at the grocery store. He also said that any time he needed a job for any reason, all he had to do was call Dad; and Dad would hire him to work at the grocery store with him. One of Don Allen's favorite memories he told Susan many times was about going to an old-fashioned drug store in Tonkawa, Oklahoma with his dad. He was just a little boy and he remembered going to this drug store several times. It had a soda fountain where Dad would put Don up on a high seat at the counter and order him a chocolate malt. The proper way to make a chocolate malt according to Dad (and Don) was with hard vanilla ice cream (not the soft kind and not chocolate), chocolate syrup and two scoops of malt. The drink had to be made so it would be sipped with a straw. If it was too thick, they sent it back and asked for it to be thinner. Don Allen loved those times with his Dad and all his life he loved looking for old drug stores with soda fountains and he always insisted on malts made the way Dad had.

We all have great memories of Joseph Don (Dad) Somsen. His beloved wife, Dorothy, passed away in April 1981.



*Don Allen & Susan Tolley*

In September 1981 Dad married Betty Catherine Roberts, Dorothy's younger sister. She and Don were married for 17 years. Having an aunt become your stepmother is interesting. Don Allen delighted in calling her his aunt stepmom, and he would occasionally throw in "wicked aunt stepmom" just for fun. Betty just laughed. After they married, Dad and Betty went to Idaho to visit Deanna.

Betty had a 3-year-old son, Jeremy, who knew his grandma Dorothy quite well. He had been told that grandma had passed away and was with the angels and understood that. Aunt Betty looked so much like her older sister that when she walked in, she faced a confused little boy and explanations were in order! All of Deanna's children grew up with Grandma Betty and loved her very much. The whole family was happy Dad had found a companion and was no

longer alone. He worked as a groceryman clear to the time of his death in July 1998...



- \* *About the writer Deanna Lynn Somsen-Adamson:*
  - *Married to Robert Kay Adamson [2546]*
  - *Five Children:*
    1. *Robert Jeremy 1978 [3624]*
    2. *Kaydee Lynn 1979 [3625]*
    3. *James Michael 1981-2012 [3626]*
    4. *Marcy Lea 1982 [3627]*
    5. *Mindy Sue 1990 [3628]*

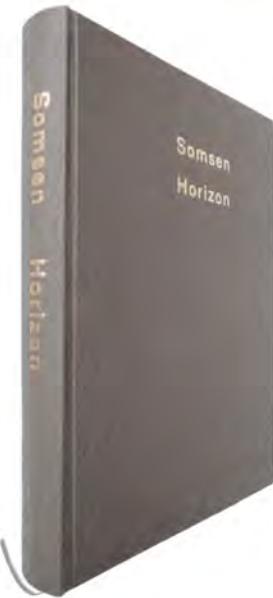
# Somsen Newsletters 2009-2022

Between 1998 and 2025, our family magazine 'Somsen Horizon' was published at least once a year. Occasionally, there was reason to send out an interim Newsletter of a few pages, for example, to announce an upcoming reunion or activity. Below, you'll find the front pages of the 20 Newsletters that have appeared. The full content of each Newsletter can be found on our website [www.somsen.org](http://www.somsen.org)

We hope this will also be a joyful trip down memory lane for you!



*Somsen*  
Newsletter number 1  
January 2009



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January 2010



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October 2010



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JOHAN SOMSEN

50

STOUTE  
KINDERVERSJES

50 Naughty Children's Rhymes



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October 2011



Bell tower New Ulm

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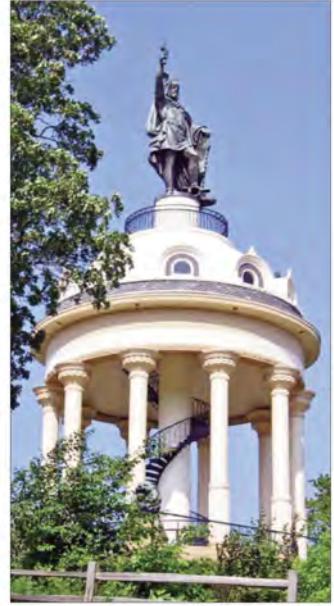
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Ken Fowler [5849] in action during an exciting match between an American and a Dutch double team.



# Somsen

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April 2014

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Jan van Daatselaar



# Somsen

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March 2015

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Stephen Somsen and LaNay M. Locher - visit to Amsterdam



# Somsen

Newsletter 12  
October 2015



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March 2016

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The Somsentree in IJzerlo

**WILL THERE BE A  
REUNION IN 2017?**



# Somsen

Newsletter 14  
October 2016

Join us for the reunion!



Dorpshuis IJzerlo 7-9 July 2017

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# Somsen

NEWSLETTER 15  
July 2018

**MEMORIES OF 'THE' REUNION**



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Dorpshuis IJzerlo 7-9 July 2017



# Somsen

## NEWSLETTER 16

December 2018

### MEMORIES OF 'THE' REUNION



Relaxing on the terrace 't Dorpshuis. Somsendag Saturday September 1, 2018. Left to right: Marco Somsen [545], Ben Somsen [438] and Ellie Somsen [237]. Photo: Adrie van Dijk [185]

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### MEMORIES OF 'THE' REUNION



Relaxing on the terrace 't Dorpshuis. Somsendag Saturday September 1, 2018. Left to right: Marco Somsen [545], Ben Somsen [438] and Ellie Somsen [237]. Photo: Adrie van Dijk [185]



# Somsen

## Newsletter 17

July 2020

### ON TO THE NEXT HORIZON

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At Manege de Achterhoek. Somsendag Saturday, September 7, 2019 L-R: Oscar Somsen [2040], Yeng Nacion [2042], Elle [237] and Harry [146] Somsen. Photo: Marco Somsen [545].



# Somsen

## Newsletter 18

May 2021

### Silent Force in the Board

Jan van Daatselaar 1929-2021



- Noah's accident and recovery
- Dallin in the US Navy
- Marco and his animal suits
- In memoriam Kathleen Berkoff
- Former ambassador returns to Beirut
- Vroeger Thuis
- ... and more

### 2022 Reunion!



# Somsen

## Newsletter 19

January 2022

#### Former Board

#### Chairman

Oscar Somsen [2040]  
Anemoonstraat 67

#### Secretariat & Treasurer

Bert Somsen [423]

#### Support Database

Adrie van Dijk [185]

#### New Board Members

#### Chairman:

Johan Somsen [1089]

#### Secretariat:

Theo Somsen [227]

#### Treasurer:

Harry Somsen [146]

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Zaen

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Jeanie Somsen [773], Heda Somsen [2848], Bente Somsen [2847], Yeng Nacion [2042], Johan Somsen [1089]



**Worldwide Reunion  
Holland, Michigan  
August 5-7, 2022**

## Jan and Anna in Baldwin, Wisconsin (part 3, conclusion)

door Theo Somsen [227]



*Jan and Anna Somsen-Kemink [352-353] from Amsterdam visited in 1949 the full cousins of Jan Willem Somsen. Descendants of the Somsens from the Achterhoek (Gelderland) who once emigrated to the United States.*

*Jan and Anna kept a diary during this nearly three-month period:*

*May 31 – August 22, 1949.*

*In this episode, you will find a selection of their final experiences in Baldwin and surroundings.*

### **Wednesday, July 13, 1949**

Cousin Willem and Raymond arrived by car around a quarter past seven, and together we went to St. Paul [MN] to visit the global corporation of which Dr. Mr. Daniels is president. He was formerly the U.S. envoy to Belgium.

We took the elevator to the 13th floor, where we were brought to the company's Chief Representative, who introduced us to the Dutch consul, a 70-year-old man, born in Amsterdam, who has lived here in Minneapolis for 47 years and is a naturalized American. A genuine Amsterdamer, which delighted this imitation-Mokummer. We had an exceptionally good time.

Mr. Daniels officially saw us off again, after which we were given a tour of the large offices where the machines were rattling.

Then in a beautiful Chrysler to the factories,

where the grains are received, milled, sorted, weighed, packaged, and shipped—all automatically. Amazing! A press photographer was present and took several pictures of us in the facility.

### **Friday, July 15, 1949**

In the town of Hastings [MN], we had a cup of coffee with cake in a lunchroom. The service was very proper. A female counter attendant who served us looked at us and listened intently as we spoke. She looked so sad and seemed very nervous. She turned out to be German, from Wiesbaden, living here since November 1, 1948, married to an American soldier, and thus came here. She missed her homeland so much and longed to see her parents, brothers, and sisters again. It did her good that we could speak German with her.

**Monday, July 25, 1949**

Home around noon and then to bed. It's warm in bed, and I keep tossing and turning. As a result, I roll out of bed, which causes much giggling in the bedrooms. Anna and the nieces had a great laugh. Fortunately, I wasn't seriously hurt, but I received no sympathy at all.

**Wednesday, July 27, 1949**

This afternoon we went to the farm of cousin and niece Wernlund, where we arrived around 3 o'clock. Jan Wernlund bought this farm from his parents. We were received in a neat room. More and more female relatives arrived by car. It became quite a gathering: 15 women, young and old, were present. Arlene Wernlund came to us and pinned a beautiful bouquet on Anna's left chest, while I received a lovely carnation, with the request to open all the packages they had brought for us.

**Friday, July 29, 1949**

At home, Mina and Willem Wernlund and their daughter came to say goodbye, as did Rev. Muyskens and Albert Somsen's daughter Evelyn, who is married to Doyle Tousley and

lives in Chatfield (Minnesota). During the war, Doyle stayed at cousin Bernard's house in Arnhem.

**Saturday, July 30, 1949**

Got up at 3 a.m. because cousin Raymond was coming to pick us up around 4. Everyone was present, and after breakfast, we said goodbye to Ella and Herman, which was not easy after such wonderful days.

At a quarter past four, the car was at the door, and after a final farewell to them and to Baldwin, we headed to cousin Willem and his wife in Woodville. When we arrived, everyone was already up. The suitcases were packed, and the car was loaded. Now the farewell to this family: Willem, Geertrui, and cousin Betsy (who treated us to chocolates for her third wedding anniversary). It was hard for all of us to say goodbye, as they had also been so especially warm and generous to us. We had taken many trips with them and enjoyed many good things.

One last wave, and we disappeared from their sight.



**Here ends their visit to the Somsen relatives in Baldwin and surroundings. Afterwards, they spent another two weeks visiting other family and acquaintances in places like Chicago, Grand Haven, and Grand Rapids.**

**On Monday, August 15, they boarded a ship, departed from New York, and arrived safely in Rotterdam on Monday, August 22.**

**On August 24, 1949, Jan Somsen completed their diary, which consists of 54 typed A4 pages.**

**I was able to draw from it with great pleasure!**

**Names mentioned for clarification:**

- \* Jan Somsen [352] 1892-1974, author of the diary  
Anna Kemink [353] 1893-1992, wife of Jan Somsen
  
- \* Willem Somsen [326] 1883-1969, full cousin of Jan Somsen  
Geertrui Somsen-Snoeijenbosch [327] 1884-1985, wife of Willem
- Raymond Somsen [810] 1914-1982, son of Willem and Geertrui
- Betsy Somsen [812] 1924-2006, daughter of Willem and Geertrui
  
- \* Niece and nephew Wernlund:
  - Mina Wernlund- Somsen [320] 1878-1957, full cousin of Jan Somsen
  - Willem Wernlund [321] 1876-1953, husband of Mina Somsen
  - Jan Wernlund [802] 1910-1997, son of Mina and Willem
  - Arlene Wernlund-te Beest [809] 1924-2013, wife of Jan Wernlund
  
- \* Rev. Muyskens [3313], father-in-law of Harry Somsen [340] 1899–1985, full cousin of Jan Somsen
  
- \* Albert Somsen [333] 1890-1990, full cousin of Jan Somsen
  - Evelyn Somsen [827] 1920-2003, daughter of Albert Somsen
  - Doyle Tousley [828] 1921-2008, husband of Evelyn Somsen
  
- \* Bernard Somsen [356] 1883-1952, full cousin from Arnhem of Jan Somsen
  
- \* Host family in Baldwin of Jan and Anna Somsen-Kemink, full cousins of Jan Somsen:
  - Jenny Somsen [335] 1892-1982
  - Dina Somsen [337] 1883-1987
  - Ella Somsen [339] 1895-1971
  - Herman Somsen [330] 1886-1977.

## Somsen Genealogical Family Register

In this section, our genealogical advisor Dirk Somsen [136] from Halsteren informs you about the family announcements. We thank everyone who has kept us updated about joyful or sad events in the family. This enables us to keep the genealogical register up to date and to report on it in the Horizon and Newsletter. You can view the entire genealogical register online at [www.somsen.org/en/#Genealogy](http://www.somsen.org/en/#Genealogy). This online information is updated through December 2025. We appreciate sharing this with our relatives. Please remember to inform us about events in your family. We would greatly appreciate it if you send your family announcements (preferably with a photo) to [somsengenealogie@djsomsen.nl](mailto:somsengenealogie@djsomsen.nl) or by mail to: D.J. Somsen, Verduinsbos 10, 4661 NW Halsteren, NL.

### FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Born:

2024-01-23: Holland Allred [8015], Nephi [ut, usa], daughter of Glenn Taylor Allred [7871] and Mindy Sue Adamson [3628]  
 2025-08-17: Jamie Anne Somsen [8016], Zwolle [ov, ned], daughter of Bente Kathelijn Somsen [4863] and Mike Hullien [8017]  
 2025-09-07: Julian Dion (Julian) Kretchting [8018], Zevenaar [ge, ned], son of Jasper [7651] and Evelien [175] Kretchting.



Holland Allred [8015]



Julian Kretchting [8018]

#### Married:

No updates received.

#### Deceased:

2023-09-09: William Johannes (Johnny) Somsen [1420], age 60  
 2024-11-06: Maria Adriana (Marieke) Somsen-van der Pijl [1536], age 59  
 2025-04-16: Cornelia Johanna (Nellie) Somsen [66], age 72, Almelo [ov, ned]  
 2025-04-28: Piaternella Cornelia (Elly) Somsen-Velders [469], age 90, Hoogeveen [dr, ned]  
 2025-05-21: Johan Herman Gerritsen [1209], age 76, Warnsveld [ge, ned]  
 2025-06-24: Dirkje (Dikky) Somsen-Lenselink [133], age 94, Zwartsluis [ov, ned]  
 2025-10-04: Marco Christiaan (Marco) Somsen [545], age 52, Aalten [ge, nld]  
 2025-11-11: Jaantje (Jannie) Tolkamp-Hoopman [387], age 95, Zelhem [ge, ned]



[1536]



[66]



[469]



[1209]



[133]



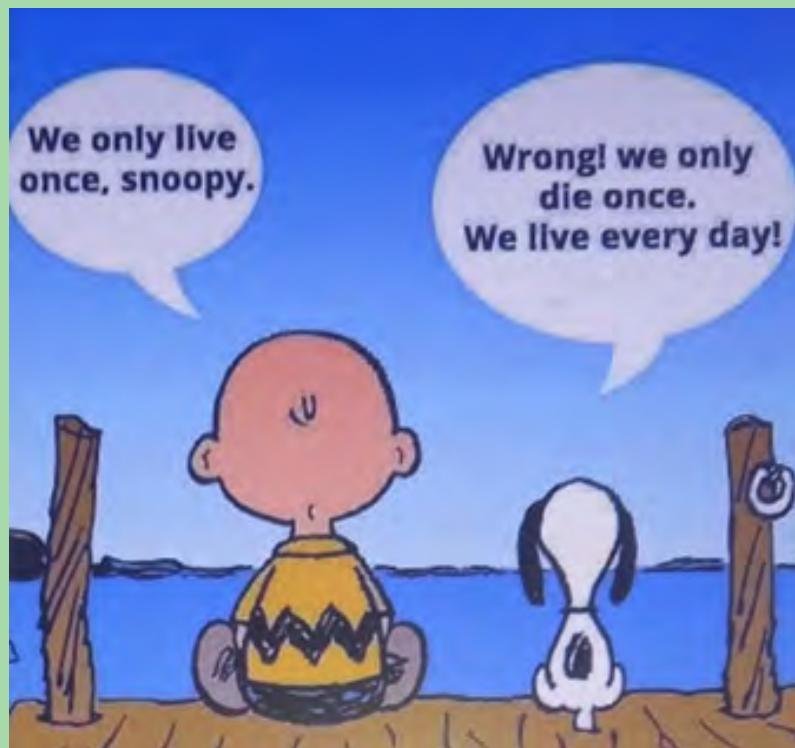
[545]



[387]



*Vincent van Gogh – Sterrennacht / Starry Night*



*Charlie Brown & Snoopy*

**We wish you a Prosperous, Healthy and Happy 2026!**