

THE NEXT GENERATION: ONE MORE HOMAGE

by Theo Somsen [227]

Just imagine: you are somewhere between 25 and 30 and you learn that there is going to be a reunion, quite far from your home.

Doesn't it make sense that you think in such a situation: 'Ah, that's nothing for me; I'm far too young for that'. It seems to make sense indeed, but this didn't go for about 20 youngsters in our family.

Not only did they go to all the trouble of coming, but they also turned the reunion into a true feast by their contagious enthusiasm.

Family-teamwork

Jennifer Crist [2764] had done all the necessary preparations designing the layout of the program and the buttons; good work by this laughing 26-year-old relative. Besides, a team of three passionate photographers were busy taking pictures and video-shots of everyone for two days on end. Real family teamwork, taken care of by dynamic Edward Rice [3849] and his breathtaking twin-sisters Pamela [3847] and Patricia [3848].



Berkseth cousins

Saturday night the next generation took over completely, they were the trendsetters for the evening. They whirled across the dance floor and especially 13-year-old Suzanne Somsen [2745] showed a remarkable talent for show.

Even more exiting were the karaoke performances of large groups of youngsters, sometimes together, sometimes in solo performances. Those who witnessed this or who saw the video during the camping-weekend must have experienced how sparkling this all was. In a very relaxed way Brad Olson [3892] gave a nice swinging song: in shorts and his in his pockets. As if we were moving to the sound of a mantra we rolled along with the community singing. Ken Anderson's [3934] singing act with the three Crist-girls: Jennifer [2764], Melissa [2765] and Adrienne [2766] was quite unique. Ken wanted to gain their respect but the ladies did not respond to that. They laughed at him; Ken had to make do with that. It really was an evening full of smashing joy!

But the contributions of the younger generation had not yet stopped, for during the church service



l.-r.: Ken Anderson [3934], Melissa Crist [2765], Jennifer Vogel-Crist [2764] and Adrienne Crist [2766]

the next morning we were due for another surprise. Three of the youngsters, who we had seen karaoke singing the previous night with great enthusiasm, now succeeded in fascinating us with their songs for three voices. Shannon Kerr (21), Corinne Berkseth (30) and Jacqueline Christy-Olson (35) brought these subdued songs in a flawless manner.

Younger people important

I more and more realise how important this large group of younger people was for the success of this reunion. And...how important they are now and will be in the future for the vitality of our family foundation.

On the spot several of them joined the foundation as supporters. On the spot some of them indicated that they wanted to get to know The Netherlands much better and that they wanted to visit it. Some even as early as next year. They should know that they are more than welcome and that we will help them to have a most enjoyable stay in The Netherlands!

Finally one more thing: We have learned something from them and that is that from now on we very definitely have to get the next generation in The Netherlands interested in our family activities. You may be sure that the effects of this will not go unnoticed at the next reunion:

The Netherlands 2007! ■