



# Somsen horizon

Volume 6 - number 11 - May 2003

## *Featuring:*

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Daatselaar-Somsen



Philip Somsen



Wim Somsen



Han Somsen



Drika Meinen-  
Somsen



Hennie & Paulien  
Somsen-Middelhuis



Hannie Somsen-  
Stroes



*Half-yearly family magazine*

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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

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*We gladly permit copying of articles on condition that the source is mentioned.*

**Cover**

*The corn-mill 't Rot, the mill of Hakstege, close to Station Street in Aalten. The mill was built in 1896 and pulled down in 1970.*



Oil painting by Piet te Lintum (1909-1985)

Lay-out: Bep Berkhoff  
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## Preface



Well, of course it had to happen one time. But as soon as things have become inevitable you know and feel what you are really going to miss. For we are going to miss Jan & Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen now that they have decided to stop doing the final editing and layout of our family magazine. Well over five years this wonderful couple has done its best with great enthusiasm to make our Somsen Horizon an extremely readable and attractive magazine. And with a lot of success, for don't we hear very often that other families are jealous of this beautiful magazine and would like to have such a magazine themselves?

One should not underestimate how much energy goes into the making of our magazine. There is a lot of work to be done so as to make and shape two editions of our magazine every year. Just read what Jan & Gree write about this in their article in this edition.

They have taken care of ten editions - actually 20, for the English editions require a special treatment and approach.

Gree deserves a place in the Hall of Fame of our family because of her unrelenting positive attitude, her tenacity and love for her family (and also for her Jan of course).

Fortunately she will stay on our board with all these qualities and from time to time she is bound to

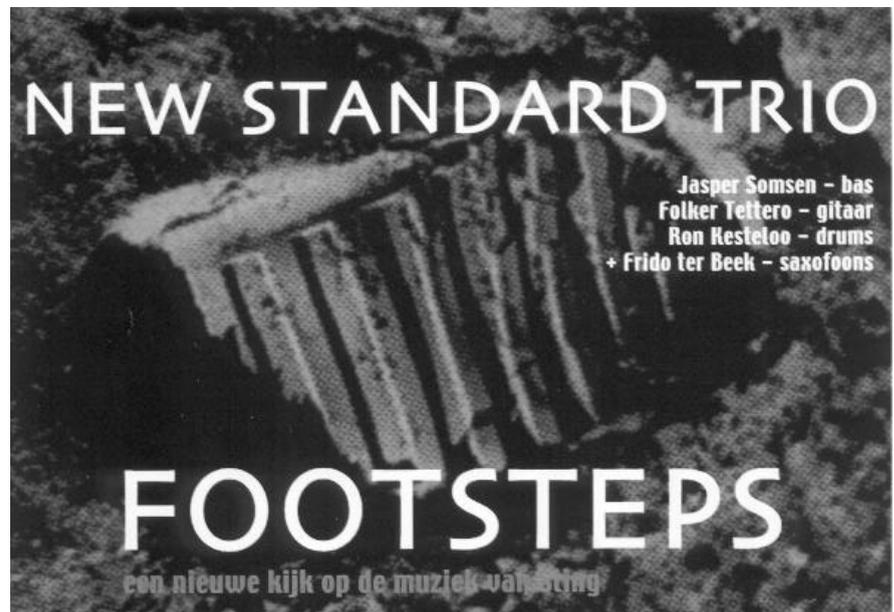
take care of an article. In spite of the fact that Jan is a cold Somsen he is granted a place in the Hall of Fame of our family next to Gree. Not only because he took care of the layout so unselfishly and skilfully. No Jan, we also appreciate it very much that you love a Somsen and that you have wanted to support her in this way. Hats off!

And finally this: normally a photograph of the chairman goes with the preface. This is the way Gree wanted it. Now that Gree is no longer in charge I have seized the opportunity and have selected a drawing. It is a tribute to Gree and also to Jan and to the elegance and grandeur they represent!

On behalf of the board,  
Theo Somsen

## Footsteps

Once again Jasper Somsen [2850] has released a CD. This time entitled *Footsteps*.



- 1 She's Too Good For Me
- 2 Consider Me Gone
- 3 Seven Days
- 4 Moon Over Bourbon Street
- 5 Be Still My Beating Heart
- 6 Walking On The Moon
- 7 The Wild, Wild Sea
- 8 The Dream Of The Blue Turtles
- 9 Tea In The Sahara

It is a CD with nine compositions of the famous group Sting, which Jasper adapted for the New Standard Trio.

For lovers of jazzy music this is a wonderful CD. The more you listen to this CD the more familiar and the more beautiful it becomes. It certainly is a must.

The price of the CD € 15 and is obtainable through Jasper Somsen.

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## It's been a pleasure

by Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]

**At the great Somsen Reunion in 1997 I was walking around with my eyes and ears very alert. I enjoyed everything that happened there. My elaborate impressions which I wrote down a few days later formed the principal part of the first edition of Somsen Horizon.**

**That is how things go: one action evokes another.**



I got in touch with the reunion committee and asked them if I could join them. Some time later I became a member of the board of the Somsen Foundation and I became vice-president. Editing and doing the layout of our magazine became my job in the editorial staff of *Somsen Horizon*. Though being retired, I took up my old job. It was small-scale for sure, but still attractive.

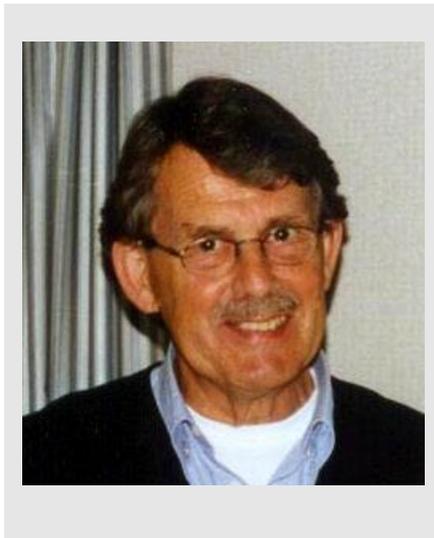
In this advanced computer age, in which everything is digitalised, certainly in my job, I could not do the work all alone. My husband, Jan van Daatselaar, a self-made virtuoso in the field of computers, promised to help me.

'We can deal with that job together, cannot we Gree!' Then in 1997 he did not yet realise what kind of job was hanging over his head.

Well, it became a sort of voluntary shared job. It was nice, gave much satisfaction, togetherness, but also stress and it was very hectic at times and it recurred twice a year always at the same time.

Editorial work always involves pressure of time, even though the planning is perfect. You are dependent on your suppliers, your writers and on the pictures that have to arrive in time. The deadline is fixed and so is the date for mailing. But with a growing sense of family we started the job. In the process we acquired new family members, distant relatives became close friends. That was and still is the most attractive element of this work.

And what about the 'cold' side? Sometimes Jan was even more involved than me. He scrutinised the database for P-numbers that I could not find, ferreted out family relationships with great precision, added photographs to his database, moun-



ted them in articles where I wanted to have them; reduced or enlarged. It is far too much to mention, page by page (184 page in all) until everything, in our opinion, was ready for the printer. Jan burned the whole contents on a CD and I drove off and on to the printer. I corrected two proofs per edition and then the big

day was there! A well-known car stops, the doorbell rings: Here you are, thank you very much, please sign this receipt and then there are the boxes with brand-new Somsen Horizons in our hall. Have a quick look. Dutch and English editions. Great satisfaction.

Shortly afterwards there is always a fine moment in the whole process, the process from the first letter on paper to the magazine on the doormat. The mailing! The preparation of all the Somsen Horizons for mailing with the whole editorial team and often with some extra assistance of other board members. An enjoyable happening, with coffee and cake and other delicacies. That is very encouraging.

Our big long table is crammed with piles of magazines, address stickers, stamps and Somsen logos. Keep cool, because nothing may go wrong. The conversation is incomprehensible for an unexpected visitor: *'First we do America.'* *'Do you take Eibergen with you?'* *'Yes that family can be put together in one envelope.'* *'Mind you, those instructions should be put in the middle.'* *'Anything forgotten?'* *'Oh, then we soak off Wim.'* After some of hours of hard and pleasant work there are full boxes again, now with big envelopes and ready to post. On going home everyone takes some with him and the part that is left over is taken to the post office by Jan.

So we have arrived at the tenth issue of Somsen Horizon. The last one in full colour. Beautiful work, glad we could do it. In the eleventh edition, the one you are reading now, you will find that Jan and I say goodbye to this work. We regret it but nevertheless. My eyes are causing trouble and we will give ourselves some more rest, some more freedom in spring and autumn.

I do plan to stay on the board of the Family Foundation for a while. We stay connected

Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]  
Jan van Daatselaar [679]

## Rev. Philip Somsen

***Phil Somsen [2685] from the Jan Hendrik Somsen branch of 1881 led the service in the Church of Baldwin during the great USA-Reunion in 2002.***

***At the moment Phil works as a pastor in a hospital in Fort Dodge, IA. We have got to know Phil as a very friendly man who was very much involved with all the events at our beautiful Reunion. From time to time Phil sends emails to people in our family, on both sides of the ocean, and there are always some encouraging words.***

***We found the following article on the Internet and it tells us a bit more about this special Somsen.***



**Phil Somsen  
Baldwin, Sunday August 4, 2002**

Rev. Phil Somsen, a graduate of Western Seminary, came to Leota Bethel in June 1978.

During his pastorate the narthex addition was completed. New pews, ceiling in the sanctuary, and carpet were installed.

Pastor and Evy Somsen are the parents of three girls, Alissa, Leah and Coby.

They left for Sacramento, CA. in the fall of 1983.

Since leaving Leota he has: 1983-1991 Served as senior pastor at Sacramento Community Drive-In Church/Crossroads Community

Church, Elk Grove, CA. This church had been started in 1967 in a drive-in theatre with a vision of being Garden Grove of the North.

The church had not grown and had some financial reversals that stymied growth.

The change in name was an effort to grasp a new goal and direction for ministry in the 90's.

1991-1993 Program Coordinator at Inspiration Hills. Phil Somsen: 'I came on board as the first ever program person.' Highlights: Adult

programming for Consistories, expanded youth staff, Engaged Encounter weekends.

1993-1998 Pastor of Calvary Reformed Church, Monroe, SD. Highlights: Community ministry, children's programming, serving the local volunteer fire department as treasurer.

1998-2000 Chaplaincy training at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse, WI. Highlights: Full-time pastoral care where he has always found the greatest satisfaction in ministry. Work with Advanced Directives, Living Wills, Power of Attorney for Health Care and pulpit supply for different area churches.

July 2000: Coordinator of Spiritual Care, Trinity Regional Hospital, Fort Dodge, IA. This means: pastoral care, working together with the Trauma and Code Blue team, with Advanced Directives, Ethics Commission, Hospice work.

Evy Somsen-van Bruggen [2696] is teaching piano and guitar at home. Daughter Alissa Ledebouer [2697] is a single parent with a six-year old son Ethan [3766]. She studies English and Drama at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Leah [2698] is married to Kent Kippes [4009], they have two boys: five-year old Isaac [4010] and three-year old Benjamin [4753]. Leah is a second year medical student at the same University as her sister.

Daughter Coby [2699] has moved home to attend college in Fort Dodge in the nursing program. She is planning for a second summer as a camp counsellor at Warwick in NY.

From time to time Phil Somsen is still in contact with members of the churches he served before. And be sure he does appreciate this very much!

## The Eleven-Towns Skating Race on Weissensee

by Wim Somsen [518]

**Wim Somsen is probably our most sporting family member. Skating is one of his favourite sports. As often as three times (1985, 1986 and 1997) he took part in the 'race of races': The Eleven-Towns Race. This 125-mile monstrous race, which leads through the 11 cities of the province of Friesland, is part of Holland's cultural heritage. It is a unique tour that inspires every Dutchman. It can only be held in very severe winters and then weather conditions are usually too bad. But then, what could one do when there is (as usual) another mild winter? Well, go to Austria for an alternative Eleven-Towns Race!**

On the early Saturday morning of January 25, 2003 two cars depart from Dinxperlo for a 650-mile trip to Weissensee in Austria. In these cars there are experienced old hands in the field of skating the Eleven-Towns Race in Austria, but there are also some newcomers like me. I did skate the 125-mile tour in Friesland three times but I had never been in a position to do this one.

The preparations have been very good. We usually skate two to three times a week on artificial ice in Deventer. We had two short periods of frost so that we could also practise on natural ice on Lake Veluwe and in the Weerribben near Giethoorn.

After a smooth drive we arrive at our hotel at about four in the afternoon. Of course the name of the hotel is 'Weissensee'. We are very heartily welcomed by our host and hostess and of course there are already a number of Dutchmen in the hotel among whom some real marathon skaters who will do their own race the whole week long. We use Sunday and Monday to acclimatise. We skate for a number of hours on the small lake that is covered with a 12-inch layer of ice. The ice on the big lake is not yet reliable and therefore it is forbidden territory. We enjoy the beautiful weather and the splendid surroundings.

Weissensee is situated at an altitude of 3300 feet and it is surrounded by mountains. Along the elongated lake there are villages on one side with

many hotels and boarding-houses. The many lights of these and the masses of snow render a magnificent picture towards dusk



The final step in our preparations for the 125-mile tour on Tuesday is a visit to the sauna of our hotel.

Lovely sweating without doing anything.

Then it is Tuesday, January 28. The day for which we have come. The alternative Eleven-Towns Race. We get up at half past five in the morning - have a solid breakfast and then we have to choose the right clothes - it is not so very cold, just a few degrees below zero - we have got to use vaseline though - we already checked our skates the night before. Then off we go, to the track for the start at seven. We start right in front of our hotel and not at the official start half a mile off. We put on our skates in the dark with the light of some flashlights - we are a bit nervous and skate a little to and fro to warm up. There is some patting on the back - wishing each other good-luck and then there is a thundering gunshot at the start.

The echoes rebound a few times among the mountains and gradually disappear across the lake. Tens of shades get started, carefully finding their way on the ice, taking care not to get into one of the many cracks. Right from the start I lose my buddies - it is the first time - so just be careful. After some time the car at the head passes me with in its wake the gang that started right on the start. They are a bit too fast for me so I hook up with the second group. We are on our way!

On the small lake they have laid out a number of zigzag tracks together covering 10.5-miles and you have to do them 12 times so as to cover 125 miles. In the course of the day you see all kind of groups going to and from the lake.

I can see the cracks quite well because of my skiing-glasses. The track has just been swept. When it is getting light a dense fog develops. This seems to be unique I hear afterwards from the experienced old hands. The fog freezes on your clothes so that very soon semi-white figures move across the ice. It is more annoying that your glasses also get covered with ice so that the view rapidly decreases.



Some choose to take off their glasses - this renders red eyes in the evening - , others choose to clean them regularly, but the danger of frozen eyes is always there. The first four rounds I am in the third group and it is nice and comfortable. After the second round we have to get a stamp after every round and we get drinks and later also food at the service points. After the fourth round there is a sanitary stop. Because of the breaks I lose touch with the good groups and I have to skate all alone for too long. One of my buddies explains afterwards that it is quite well possible to pee while skating but this special technique surely requires extra exercise. He is the fastest skater in the tour that day.

I covered the first 63 miles in three and a half hours. It is my goal to finish within eight hours. The second 63 miles will take more time, but it should be possible.

After about nine rounds the fog disappears and the sun appears. Now you can see the whole lake with groups of skaters everywhere. The last two rounds are very heavy for me - the ice is getting softer (it doesn't freeze anymore) - the cracks get deeper - the bends, especially the ones to the right are getting worse - stability is not so good anymore - I fall a couple of times - no injuries, but it is bad for your rhythm - I look for a broad back one more time and then after 7.29 hours there is the finish. A sense of relief and satisfaction take possession of you and I think many sportsmen know this feeling. Two of my buddies have already finished then, the others will arrive in the following hours.

This night we enjoy an extra drink - it gets late - the experiences of that day are discussed at length - in the small hours we go to bed - the next morning some complain

about the so-called Weissensee headache.

Wednesday is a day of recovery for everybody. We watch the race of our marathon skaters - Ruitenberg is the winner. We admire the pictures that were taken of the tour the day before. They are beautiful pictures but the price of \$ 8 each is a bit high though. We receive the 125-mile diplomas.

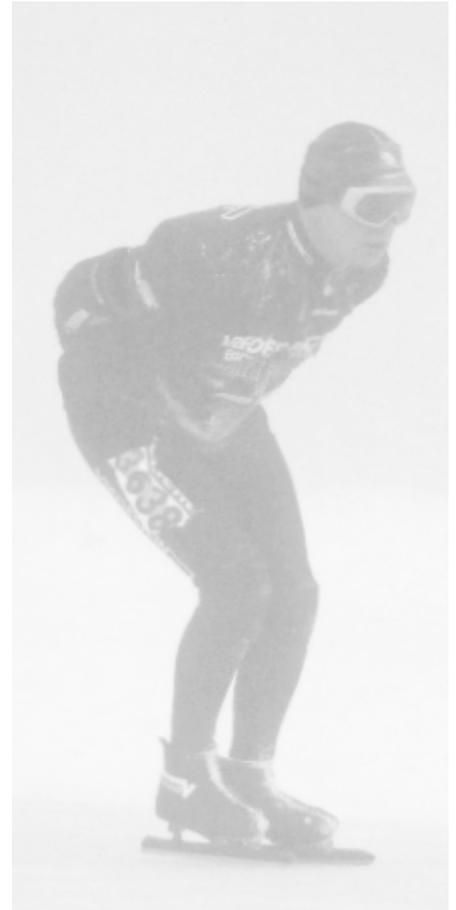
On Thursday we go out skiing with a small group in a wonderful area immediately on the Italian border. We go to an altitude of 6600 feet - the weather is brilliant. I realise that it is 20 years ago that I was on skis the last time. After a short period of habituation I really get to like it but having become a little reckless I have a bad fall when there was a small pole on my way and the result is a slightly bruised rib.

All of us have also registered for the last tour on Friday. Not everybody plans to skate another 125 miles and

to make an early start at 7. But three of us do start at 7. The prospects are bad at first for when we get up it is snowing. But at the start the sky is clear again and the track is being swept with fast cars. Behind these cars a leading bunch of 20 men develops and I join them with the idea that I will see where it all ends. This time there will be no sanitary stops I decide - until the fifth round everybody is still there - then the speed increases and the group is split into two groups. I stay in the second group - in the course of the day there is more wind so that there are not so many skaters left that want to skate at the head of the group - after nine rounds I decide to go further with some people from Deventer that I know for the 125 miles. The ice stays hard all day - the bends do get bad though - and there

are always many cracks. We finish at 18.53 hours and for the second time this week a sense of great satisfaction prevails. Everything hurts, your back is broken - you can hardly stand on your feet - you are as stiff as a poker - but after a hot bath everything is bearable again.

On Saturday we drive back home, tired but satisfied. If my boss admits I will certainly go more often or do I have to wait until I retire? And of course we can always enjoy ourselves doing rounds on the ice rink.



Wim Somsen in third position

## Han Somsen: a Pioneer

*Nijmegen loses pioneer to  
Amsterdam!*

Under this headline a news item was released in the autumn of 2002. What was the matter?

Han Somsen (born 1964) was gloriously welcomed as a new top talent for Nijmegen's University at the beginning of 2002. He is seen as a promising and pioneering researcher in a field that is strongly emerging: the coherence between legal rules



Han Somsen [196]

and biotechnological innovations. In March 2002 he even received a so-called pioneering subsidy for his work of nearly € 500,000. But having barely received the money he swapped the Nijmegen University for a post of a professor in Amsterdam. Moreover he brings the granted subsidy and a team of five with him to the University of Amsterdam.

It is not difficult to understand that the University of Nijmegen is deeply disappointed. They would have liked to keep him for Nijmegen very badly, but all efforts were in vain. The university magazine VOX learned from

an anonymous source that the Governing Body was prepared to offer Han Somsen a post of a professor but that the Faculty Board had thwarted this.

Han Somsen's comment to these events: 'I can only say that the future of my project is much better guaranteed in Amsterdam than here.'

We wish not only the project but also Han Somsen himself an excellent future in Amsterdam!



## Drika has given birth to a son today

by Theo Somsen [227]\*

***You are young and wild and desirous! This is the translation of a popular expression in The Netherlands. It cannot be translated but it means that as a result of being wild, sometimes unwanted children are born.***

***This happened to at least two of our family members.***

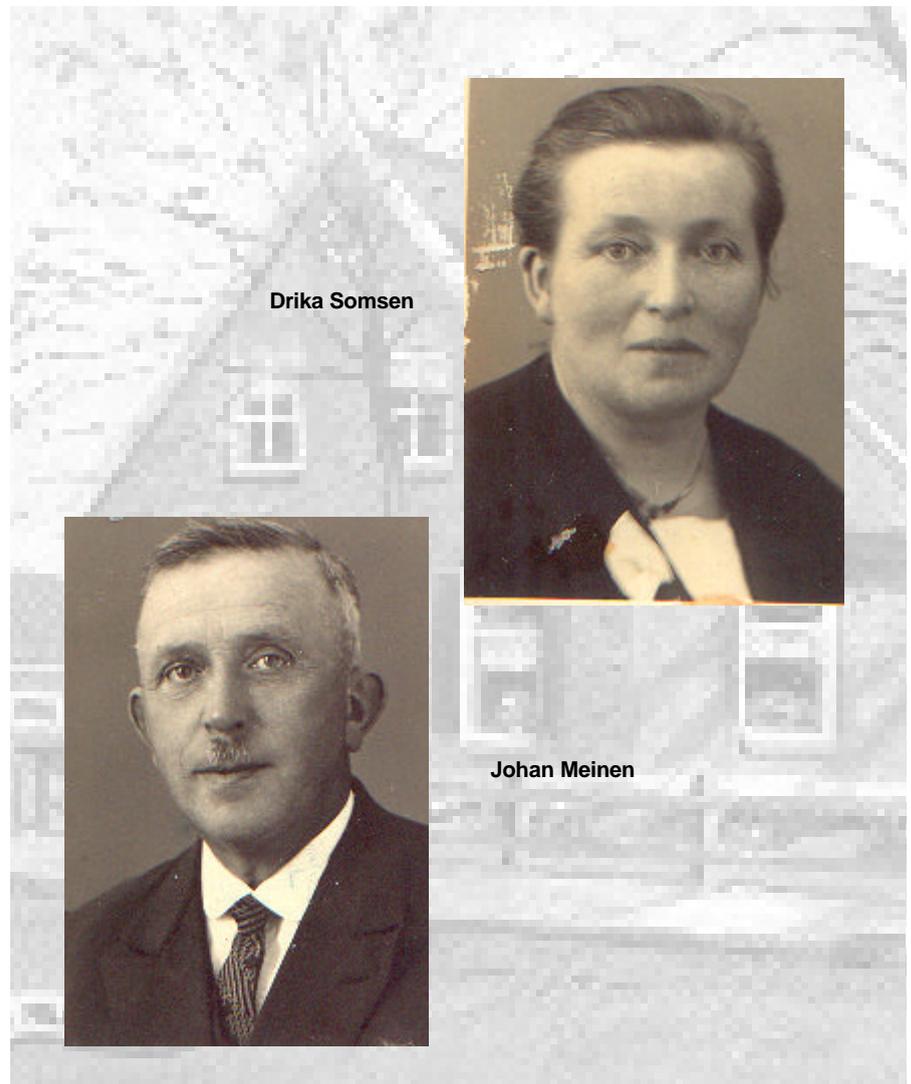
In the summer of 1912 Hendrika (Drika) Somsen [348] still lived with her mother at home at the farmstead *The Pellewever*, quite close to the centre of Aalten. Drika was a nice, slender 26-year-old girl, but still single. We don't know if she dated anyone.

We do know that she knew the local chair-bottomer Johan Meinen [349] who was almost one and a half years older than her. They did not only know each other but they also knew everything about how life on earth is reproduced. Drika certainly knew, since she was a maternity nurse. She probably did not know the present day popular expression 'you are young and wild and desirous' but she certainly felt the urge. Moreover it was summertime and no doubt there must have been many beautiful sunny and warm days. And did not they, young and old, exuberantly celebrate the *Queen's birthday* just after harvest time on August 31?!

We will never learn the minute details, but it was a fact that Drika was unmistakably pregnant around the turn of the year 1912-1913. Drika, for that matter, was not the first woman to whom such a thing happened. Had not her parents been struck by the same fate?

The protestant community of Aalten had a lot of experience with this kind of situations and consequently also tried and tested solutions.

These solutions implied two things: first of all a public confession of the sin committed during a church-service and next a marriage as soon as possible.



Drika Somsen

Johan Meinen

This was a problem for Johan and Drika, for they did not belong to the same church. Johan was Dutch Reformed and Drika was an Orthodox Calvinist, a group that had split off from the Dutch Reformed Church in Aalten some 25 years earlier.

Johan surely did want Drika (and by then this had become obvious for sure) but he did not want to become an Orthodox Calvinist.

For Drika it was completely inconceivable to return to the Dutch Reformed Church.

Considering the relations at the time, their parents, together with the elders and the preachers of both churches will have played an important role in this matter.

However it may be: nothing happened; Drika remained pregnant and she stayed at home with her mother. On May 26, 1913 Drika gave birth to a son at The Pellewever. There was no real happiness in view of the previous history and the situation. What should be done? Johan and his parents had to be informed about it. Who was to carry out this delicate job?



The Pellewever (oil painting by Piet te Lintum)



Johan Somsen  
(about 1916)

Her younger brother, 18-year-old Johannes (Johan) Theodorus [226], was selected. He was the only one who had studied. He had passed his teacher exams on May 15. From June 1 he would be a voluntary teacher at the denominational school in the hamlet of Lintelo. Wasn't he the one who should be capable of conveying this inevitable message tactfully?

Johan realised there was no escaping, indulged and set out for the parental home of Johan Meinen that same evening. After nightfall he went on foot to Lichtenvoordse-

straatweg 14 in the centre of Aalten.

Having arrived there he rang the bell, he was invited inside and sensed an oppressing silence with Johan and his parents.

The only thing he -still standing- managed to utter was: *'Drika has given birth to a son today...'*. They listened to this announcement resignedly with their faces turned away. There were no further questions.

There was some vague muttering 'thank you' and then Johan realised that he could consider his mission completed.

He wished them a good night and hurried home.

Bashful and also relieved but not really satisfied.

It nearly took another 11 years before Drika and Johan married and went to live together.

They got married as late as April 17, 1924. Johan became a cattle-dealer and in addition he was a bearer at funerals. In summer he was a well-known appearance in the marketplace of Aalten, where he sold ice-cream. But even during their wedded life the tension between the Dutch Reformed and the Orthodox Calvinist views remained. Their grandchildren still remember that when they stayed with their Granddad and Grandma they went to the Dutch Reformed Church one Sunday and to the Orthodox Calvinist Church the next Sunday. Their marriage lasted almost 34 years until it ended because of Drika's death in 1958. Johan passed away about three years after her. And what about their son?



Lichtenvoordsestraatweg 14, Aalten

left to right: daughter-in-law Gerda, son Johan, Drika and Johan Meinen-Somsen



Johanna Berendina Somsen-Heersink  
(about 1914)

Drika gave him the names Johan Bernard Meinen [373] at his birth. It is obvious to assume that with the name 'Johan' she wanted to make an appeal to her beloved.



Johan and Drika Meinen-Somsen at an advanced age (about 1950)



**Johan and Gerda Meinen-te Sligte (1937)**

But then the second name Bernard renders a problem, for neither in her direct family, nor in Johan Meinen's family does this name occur very prominently. In my view Drika has wanted to honour her 57-year-old wise mother with this naming.

The same had happened to her mother when she was 23. She had also had a shotgun marriage and because of that experience she must no doubt have been of great support to Drika. She was called Johanna Berendina Somsen-Heersink [310], a name which has the male forms: Johan Bernard!

Drika's son, Johan Bernard Meinen, had been raised by his mother and grandmother for almost 11 years before his father took over the role of his grandmother. Johan Meinen junior did quite well. He built up a career as a policeman and finally became a deputy sheriff in Vlagtwedde (Ter Apel) in the province of Groningen.

Johan Meinen junior felt very much interested in the ups and downs of the Somsen family and kept up extensive ties with them. Every year he, together with his own family, spent a couple of weeks in Aalten. And at every joyful or sad family happening he and his wife Gerharda Hermina (Gerda) Meinen-te Sligte [374] were surely present.

Therefore it is not surprising that also one of their sons, Johan Hendrik Willem (Hans) Meinen [4360] and his wife Marty Meinen-Mulder [4361] feel lastingly connected with our family and our family activities!

\* Somewhere between 1960 and 1965 my father, Johan Somsen [226] told this story to me. At the request and of course with permission of Hans Meinen -in whose family this was never discussed- I have put it down in writing.



**Hans and Marty Meinen-Mulder**

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## A good eye for detail

by Hennie Somsen [1861]

**The lime tree at the Japikshuis in IJzerlo looks healthy and firm. Nearly six years ago this tree was planted to commemorate the Somsens who emigrated from that place to America 150 years earlier.**

**One of the Somsen horticulturists, who donated the lime tree, is going to tell his story here at our request. Hennie Somsen from Eibergen very enthusiastically tells about his business, which he founded together with his wife Paulien. The area where they work covers the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel.**

### **Somsen Gardening**

Telling a story about yourself, about your own company, about your specialisations is not a thing you do every day. Nevertheless we have been asked to do so by the editors of the family magazine *Somsen Horizon*.

We will give it a try: I would like to stress the word we since we built up our business together.

That is: Paulien Somsen-Middelhuis [3722], who has been my wife since 1996 and I: Hennie Somsen [1861]. The name of our business is **Somsen Gardening** and we have been settled in Eibergen since 1999.

contracted our first employee Frank Surink. One year later our second steady employee Rutger Jansen joined us.

After a few years it turned out that it was difficult to run our business from our home in Haaksbergen. We were seriously short of space. We even had to store our equipment and so in a different place outside the village.

That was certainly not an ideal situation. After some weighing we decided to look for another place. Then Eibergen turned up. It is a wonderful village about 7 miles from Haaksbergen.

company. At this new site we built the company buildings -office and workshop- with a home annex. That was a splendid new start.



**Daniëlle and her little brother Youri**

Here our two children were born. *Daniëlle*, our daughter, was born in July 1999 and *Youri*, our son, was born in April 2002.

### **Total Gardening**

Together with our employees, Frank and Rutger, we have achieved our own territory.

Our company is mainly active in the private market. That is: garden design and maintenance in the most complete sense of the word. We do all the designs ourselves, of course there is always good consultation with the customers. It is very important to us that the customers recognise something personal in our design, that they notice that their desires have been fulfilled, for instance in the choice of materials, plantation and colours.

Our specialisation is: designing a complete garden. Through a professional plan and accurate organisation we manage to deliver up beautiful gardens to the customers' entire satisfaction.

We especially have a good eye for small details, like pavement, architectural elements, plantation and we also see to it that the project is delivered up neatly and precisely finished. We always try to meet the demands of our customers as much as possible, for instance re-using existing plants and materials.



**Company building**

We started in Haaksbergen on March 1, 1993 in a residential area in the middle of the village. In 1998 we

In Eibergen there was land for sale in the industrial estate *De Kieft*. There we could finally develop our

If it is the customer's wish to assist in the project that is always possible.

As a gardening business we are also active in the professional market. We design and maintain gardens around offices and company buildings. We try to think along with the plans of the companies as much as possible. And we also try to obtain subsidies for particular projects.

Our main motive is building up good connections with our principals through this approach. Since we have good personal contacts with our customers we can estimate quite well what they think what is important for their garden. Because of this we can meet their demands as much as possible and make a good design. Besides it is important to have some freedom in making our design and carrying it out. Designing new forms and possibilities and getting customers enthusiastic for this is quite a challenge.



Paulien Somsen-Middelhuis and Hennie Somsen



#### ***New trends in gardening***

Present day new trends certainly play a part in our designs and in the laying out of gardens. Of course also because customers ask for it. Due to television programs and magazines about gardening people are quite well-informed about all the new trends. We very often try to combine these with existing situations. Because of this various possibilities arise in the making of our designs. At the moment we are very busy with ornamental pavement materials that are colour proof. And also with pavement materials of many different sizes.

In addition we use all kinds of countersunk materials for roofed terraces, porches and fences.

We also work with wooden products that are not damaging to the environment such as *'plato' wood*.

This wood is cooked and is used as a substitute for impregnated wood and hard wood.

Not using chemical products but cleaners that are no threat to the environment is a very important trend for us which we follow closely.

Summing it all up: it is our goal to have personal ties with our customers so as to deliver an optimal product. A garden made to measure! With a good eye for detail. Looking for new ways always remains extremely important in this. You can find more particulars about our company on our website: [www.hoveniersbedrijfsomsen.nl](http://www.hoveniersbedrijfsomsen.nl)

We hope to keep working on our gardening business with pleasure and we hope to develop ourselves further and further.



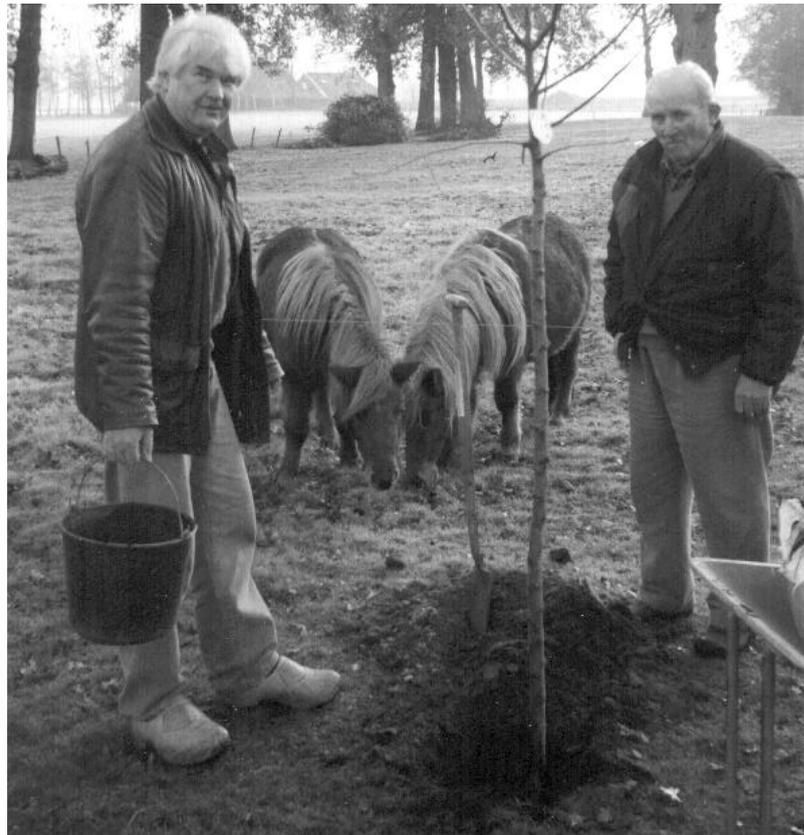
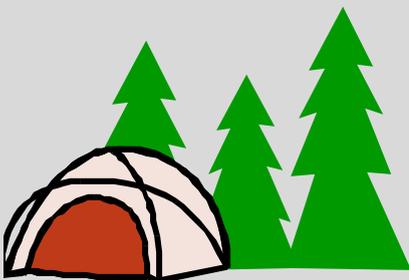
## Campingweekend

From August 15 - 17, 2003

This is going to be the seventh time that we are organising the *Somsen campingweekend* in IJzerlo. Some of the fixed parts of our programme are a visit to the Somsen tree on Saturday afternoon and the barbecue (€ 12,50) Saturday evening. On Saturday morning we organize a cycling tour to the quarry of Winterswijk for those interested. It is a real eldorado for archaeologists!

Again we expect a large number of family members. It is a very nice development that more and more young people find their way to the campsite. And as you may know, the weather is always perfect, drinks are cheap and the atmosphere is perfect. If you want to take part in the barbecue please contact Wim Somsen by phone or send an e-mail.

Wim Somsen  
Hoge Heurnseweg 8  
7095 CJ De Heurne  
Phone: +31 315 652 115  
E-mail: [somsen@uwnet.nl](mailto:somsen@uwnet.nl)



Farmer Veerbeek and Johan Somsen  
Planting the Apple Tree

## The Apple Tree

by Johan F. Somsen [1089]

***When an enthusiastic group of Somsens paid a visit to the Japikshuis in August 2002 during the camping weekend to admire the Somsen tree, something happened.***

It has gradually become a tradition that on our annual visits to the Veerbeek family we bring some bottles of Dutch gin. Always when we go to the tree then, some of the gin we have brought along is tasted. During the sparkling conversations around the tree - it was a brilliant day - Mrs Veerbeek said that it was a pity, actually, that we had not planted an apple tree instead of a lime tree at the time. Then at least you would have some apples.

From various sides there were spontaneous offers to plant an apple tree after all.

Though she liked the gesture, Mrs

Veerbeek regrettably had to admit that she was much too old now, that she would never be able to pick the apples anymore. Then Sien Overduin-Somsen [400] very quick-wittedly responded with a quote by Luther. Luther had said that even if he knew that it would be the last day of the existence of the Earth he would still plant a tree. Mrs Veerbeek was convinced and appointments were made.

In the early morning of Friday, November 8, 2002, Theo and Johan Somsen were on their way to the Achterhoek. Appointments had been made with a nurseryman and on their way to Lichtenvoorde, where Somsen Horizon 10 would be made ready for mailing, there was enough space to plant the apple tree near the Japikshuis.

Watched by the horses and by a satisfied Mr and Mrs Veerbeek the tree was planted, not far from the Somsen tree. Now we have to wait for the first apples.

## ADW-day

by Theo Somsen [227]

It is true, we had to get up very early on Saturday, November 16, 2002. A quick breakfast and then into the car, which had been crammed with all sorts of things the previous night. Thus Aalten was 'attacked' in the early dawning by Dick Somsen [130], Ben Somsen [396] and Theo Somsen to fit out an information stand of the Somsen Foundation. Aalten celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Historic Society of Aalten, Dinxperlo and Wisch (ADW). The jubilee committee had chosen for a large-scale day on which all kinds of aspects of regional history would get a chance. No less than 50 organisations had registered. They all got a stand and everybody could express himself to his heart's content. There were, for example, many genealogical societies, family-tree researchers (with high-sounding names like: Snoeijenbosch, Boland en Stronks), publishers, museums, software-suppliers, collectors of old picture post-cards, dialect societies etc. etc.



Information stand Somsen Foundation

Moreover, a number of experts in old handicrafts showed their skills in the field of chair mending, making bonnets and other local products like

cheese, jam and honey. The famous auctioneering firm Sotheby's from Amsterdam was present and offered an opportunity to appraise bric-a-brac and antiques. Many people had especially come for this purpose dragging along heavy bags. Only a few turned home as 'new' wealthy people...



Dick Somsen at his laptop with the genealogical Somsen database



Ben Somsen and the front cover collage of Somsen Horizons

There was also a lot of interest in a continuous show of old movies about the villages Aalten, Dinxperlo and Varsseveld and also in the show of ancient underwear and outer garments (especially the underwear sometimes led to hilarious reactions). People were also much interested in storytelling in the vernacular.

Hundreds of visitors visited this jubilee day and they enjoyed it. It was even so crowded that, for safety's sake, the organising com-

mittee could only admit groups of waiting visitors in dribs and drabs. Many of them managed to be patient but others went home disappointed.

The Somsen stand attracted remarkably many visitors. But then we had made every effort and put lots of things on display. Ada Somsen [75] had even brought an original oil-painting of her parental home in the Aalten Landstraat. Dick Somsen had to answer many questions about our extensive genealogical database (more than 5000 names!) and about possible relations of Somsens with people of other families. Ben Somsen got much admiration for an imposing show with a collage of quite a number of Somsen Horizon front covers.

Quite a few family-tree researchers said to be envious of what turned out to be possible in our family: a real

family book, a splendid video film, CD-ROMs, our own magazine and a very elaborate website.

Thus this successful day went by like magic. A day that leaves us behind with more new knowledge and more new acquaintances and contacts for the future.

For: Every generation is fascinated by its local history and family history and therefore these are both alive and kicking!

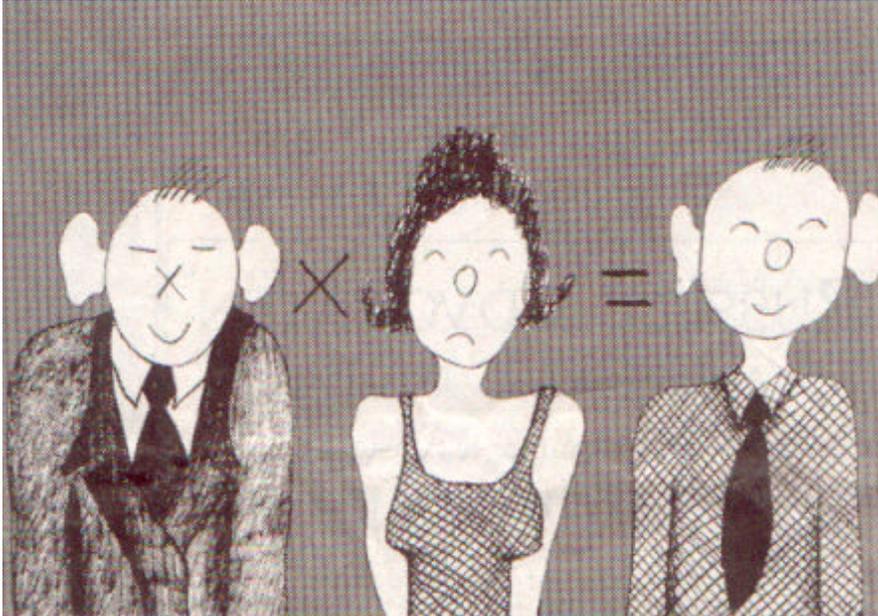
## The cold side

I have lived through enough weddings where the mutual families did not get on very well. Other customs, different culture, indeed, everything was different. The cold side acts differently.

fish who ferrets out the family tree, hoping to find something special, a noble branch or a heroic past. For some obscure reason they always follow the male line in this search. The male line would be the vein through which the noble or heroic blood flows.

In 1600 16 x 4096 families and in 1500 it amounts to 1,048,576 families.

In view of the limited number of people that inhabited the Earth at that time it would not surprise me that there is no common ancestor to be found.



We do not have to go back all the way to Adam and Eve, or to the gorilla, to find our family ties. It is a relatively short time ago that there was a common ancestor of you and me. In other words: the cold side is warmer than you might think.

*(we are indebted to Theo Jansen, who wrote this column in the Volkskrant of May 25, 2002)*

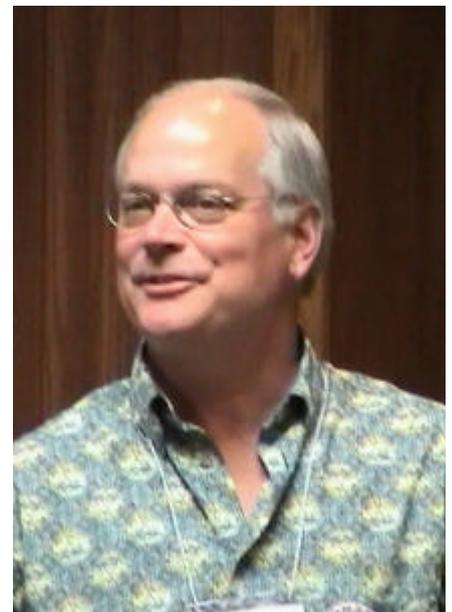
One family has an exquisite dining culture and the other family prefers a dinner with a polonaise at a cheap restaurant. There are artistic families, cosy card-playing families, football-loving families and families that love to sit quietly at the table for a good conversation.

But let it be clear: we are all related to Adam and Eve, we are all related to Neanderthal man, also to the gorilla. And we are related to one another. You and I are related. Sorry. There are genes in you that are also in me.

Both in your family and in mine there is bound to be some queer fish. It could be one that is up to no good, a loafer, a drunk, a brilliant pigeon fancier, an eccentric philanthropist, a champion nail filer or someone with extreme knowledge of French motorbikes, especially of those pieces built between 1948 and 1949. There seems to be a genetic plan behind it. To keep the percentage of queer fishes at a certain level every family creates its own queer fishes. Thus every family has a queer

This is nonsense of course; every one of us looks as much like his father than like his mother. Now we must realise that 'looking like' is a relative matter, but objectively you know that your mother contributes half of your genes and so does your father. On the average you look as much like your brother or sister than like your father or mother. The members of one family share half of their genes with each other. Except the father and mother of course. They are not related, they are both of the cold side.

Yet it is better than expected, according to me. Your genes come from those who are accessory to your existence. And there are quite a few. Each of us has two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents. Each of those sixteen great-great-grandparents has sixteen great-great-grandparents in turn. That makes sixteen times sixteen: 256 families. By then we are around 1800. In 1700 that would be 16 x 256 families is 4096 families.



Dave Berkholder [3263] introduced himself in the morning of the USA-Reunion 2002 with these words: *I am Dave, either a cold Somsen or a Somsen-by-choice.*

## 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 to our secretariat:*

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

### Born

**02-07-1999:** Daniëlle Myléne [5050], d. of Hendrik Johan (Hennie) Somsen [1861] and Paulien Jolanda Maria (Paulien) Middelhuis [3722]

**05-09-2000:** Sebastian Norman [5035], s. of James Sebastian Bear [4137] and Heidi Marie Schmautz [4143]

**25-01-2002:** Joshua Ronald [5012], s. of Jason Ronald Zignego [2762] and Kristen Kay Kaberna [3218]

**13-04-2002:** Youri Ger-Jan [5051], s. of Hendrik Johan (Hennie) Somsen [1861] and Paulien Jolanda Maria (Paulien) Middelhuis [3722]

**27-11-2002:** Jette Eva [5003], d. of Willem Jan Somsen [1808] and Désirée Eleonore Appeldoorn [2585]



Jette Eva [5003]



### Married

**17-08-2002:** Aaron Michael Goldberg [2425] and Christine Louise Gauthier [5009]



## Exhibition

How many hidden talents there are in our family. Take for instance Johanna Alberta (Hannie) Somsen-Stroes [397]. She has been painting in oil and watercolours the most beautiful things for years. And only a few people have known about it. That should not be so; more people should be enabled to enjoy this! That is how the management of the public library in Eibergen also looked upon it and therefore the doors were opened for a special exhibition on March 3, 2003. We give you an opportunity to enjoy her work for on the back cover you will find a number of pictures she made.

For further information you may contact Hannie: +31 545 472 546.



Hannie Somsen-Stroes

### Deceased

**21-10-2002:**  
Willemina Johanna Somsen-Warfman [1858]  
age 80  
Haaksbergen

**02-11-2002:**  
Grada Wilhelmina (Gerda) Somsen-Ditzel [2301]  
age 47  
Borculo

**14-01-2003:**  
Hendrik (Henk) Somsen [1800]  
age 75  
Eibergen

# Opening expositie

## Hannie Somsen-Stroes

### Landschappen, Stillevens en Bloemen

in olieverf en aquarel

