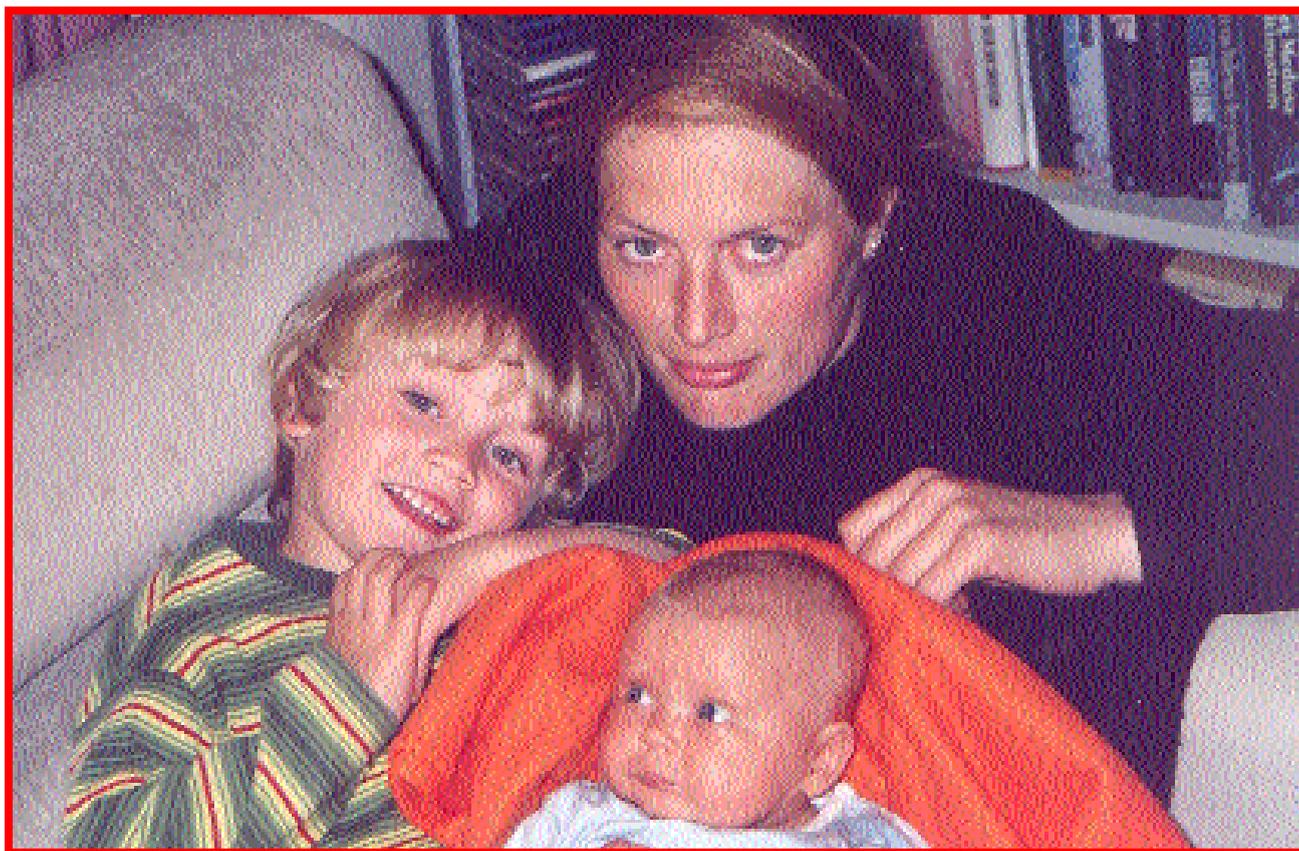




Som-

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

Board of the Somsen Foundation

Johan Somsen [1089], *chairman and translator (English)*

Schietbaanweg 11, 8162 GP Epe
tel.: +31 578-629 893 / 6 290 324 84
E-MAIL: JOHAN.F.SOMSEN@WXS.NL

Margriet Iserief-Somsen [2878], *secretary*

Jan Tooropstraat 2, 3817 PZ Amersfoort
tel.: +31 33-461 96 43
E-MAIL: SOMSENSTICHTING@CASEMA.NL

Jan van Daatselaar-Somsen [679]

treasurer

Esstraat 22, 7131 CT Lichtenvoorde
tel.: +31 544-375 783
E-MAIL: J.V.DAATSELAAR@HCCNET.NL

Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]

vice-chairman

Esstraat 22, 7131 CT Lichtenvoorde
tel.: +31 544-375 783
E-MAIL: GREE.VD.SOMSEN@HCCNET.NL

Wim Somsen [518], *vice-secretary*

Hoge Heurnseweg 8, 7095 CJ De Heurne
tel.: +31 315-652 115
E-MAIL: SOMSEN@UWNET.NL

Berto Somsen [423], *vice-treasurer*

Burg. Wilhelmweg 27, 7151 AA Eibergen
tel.: +31 545-476 272
E-MAIL: BCSOMSEN@CS.COM

Helmut Somsen [1562], *member*

Provinzialstrasse 70, 46499 Hamminkeln
Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD)
tel.: +00 49-287 35 36
E-MAIL: HELMUT.SOMSEN@T-ONLINE.DE

Ada Somsen [75], *member*

Leusdenhof 298, 1108 DP Amsterdam Zuidoost
tel.: +31 20-696 18 34
E-MAIL: ADASOMSEN01@ZONNET.NL

Theo Somsen [227], *member and editor Somsen Horizon*

Hindenhoek 11, 8172 AC Vaassen
tel.: +31 578-572 867
E-MAIL: THEOSOMSEN@CS.COM

Advisors of the Somsen Foundation

Dick Somsen [130], *genealogy and databases*

Monteverdilaan 175, 8031 DL Zwolle
tel.: +31 38-454 23 60
E-MAIL: SOMSEN.DJ@NET.HCC.NL

John Somsen [2353], *USA and Internet*

35 Springdale Avenue Holyoke
MA. 01040-3421, USA
tel.: 001 413 538 77 24
E-MAIL: SOMSEN@CROCKER.COM

Ben Somsen [396], *audio-visual support*

Lariksweg 1, 7151 XW Eibergen
tel.: +31 545-472 546, fax.: +31 545-475 359
E-MAIL: BENSOMSENVIDEO@TREF.NL

Internet

Somsen website: <http://www.somsen.org>

Bankaffairs USA

Mrs Marieke Edwards-Jager Gerlings [725]
920 East Bay Dr. NE# 3D301, Olympia,
WA. 98506-1222, USA
tel.: 001 360 786 15 83
E-MAIL: HOLLAMER@AOL.COM

Colophon**Somsen Horizon**

is issued by the Somsen Foundation

Published: Twice a year in May and November

Printings: Dutch: 200, English: 100

Supporters

The magazine is sent free of charge to all who transfer an annual gift of at least \$ 20,- to *Mrs Marieke Edwards, 920 East Bay Dr. NE#3D301 Olympia, WA. 98506-1222, USA.* A gift above this amount will be greatly appreciated!

Editorial staff Somsen Horizon

E-MAIL: THEOSOMSEN@CS.COM

Copy fot the next issue before March 1, 2006

Lay-out: Bep Berkhoff-van den Boom

Printed by: Felua-Groep, Apeldoorn

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

Contents

Board and Advisors, Colophon, Objective of the Foundation, Contents	2
Preface	3
Come to the 3rd worldwide Somsen Reunion	4
Somsens at the 25th Truckstar Festival	5
Bitterly cold Holland	6
Mimi inspects dikes of the IJssel River	8
Marco defies Jeanne	9
Liberated, but no clothes to put on	10
Picture Puzzle	11
An acrostic from 1901	12
Crashmuseum in Lievelede	13
From Dinxperlo to St. Catharines (vice versa)	14
Campingweekend IJzerlo	16
Memories of Woodville, Wisconsin, USA	17
Family Announcements	19

Objective of the Foundation

The aim of the foundation is:

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

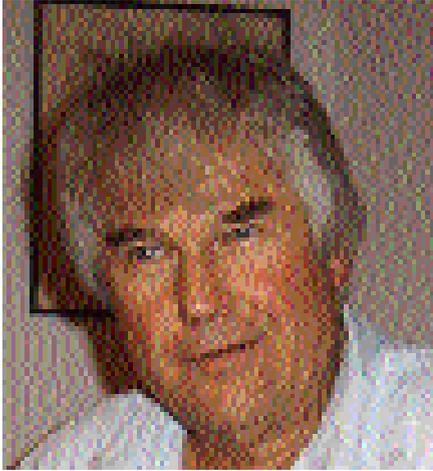
The foundation will try to achieve this object for example by:

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

Cover:

*Isolde Hogervorst-Somsen
[505] together with son Jona
[4934] and baby Isabel
[5428] (see page 19)*

Preface



In the last issue of Somsen Horizon I appealed to you for help to prepare the third **WORLDWIDE SOMSEN REUNION** in 2007. Your response was overwhelming: Somsens massively volunteered and there is even a team of American Somsens that will come over to Holland in advance to make themselves useful... too bad, this could have been a wonder-

ful dream but reality is different: up to now we have not got a single volunteer. Of course we understand this very well, because everybody is so busy with his or her own life and all the affairs in it. Still that does not alter the fact that we accept the challenge to launch this third reunion. Most of us still very clearly remember the first great reunion of 1997. It was a terrific happening, which stretched out over quite a number of days and we realise very sharply that this can never be equalled. We do not want to strive for a repetition, then.

In August 2002 the second worldwide Somsen reunion was held in Baldwin, WI, USA. About 130 Somsens from all over the USA and The Netherlands gathered there and a splendid atmosphere arose, which turned this reunion also into a very special highlight.

Then the seeds were sown for the next reunion in 2007. The oldest Somsen present, Henry Northrop [2456], 92 at the time, but extremely vital, can be held responsible for this. In an impressive speech this former attorney pleaded ardently to organ-

ise a reunion in 2007 and he registered as the first participant! It was not only moving and heart-warming, but it also obliged us to comply with his wish. Of course we do not feel obliged only because of his words; we also owe it to ourselves. It is necessary to continue this beautiful tradition so that also new generations of Somsens can draw inspiration from this for the future.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find more information about the reunion in Aalten (The Netherlands) on August 18 and 19, 2007.

Please do not hesitate to offer your assistance to one of the members of the board! Every contribution, however small, is more than welcome.

On behalf of the board,
Johan F. Somsen



Reünie 1997

Come to the 3rd worldwide Somsen Reunion!

17 - 19 August 2007

After the first unforgettable reunion in Aalten in 1997 and the equally magnificent reunion in Baldwin, Wisconsin, USA, in 2002, there will be another family reunion in The Netherlands after 10 years. A must for everybody! Later you should be able to tell your children and grandchildren about it. Moreover, this is a unique opportunity for all Somsen descendants to get acquainted with the 'Somsen-feeling'. It is inevitable that this reunion will be different, but it will certainly be unforgettable again.

A selection from the temporary (!) programme:

Friday afternoon, August 17, 2007

Informal welcome for all Somsens from abroad and all the other fans in the camping farm 't Hoftijzer in IJzerlo (Aalten); so as to get in the proper mood already!

Saturday, August 18, 2007

Festive morning programme in the halls of De Pol in Aalten. Nursery and programme for children. Lunch all together. Walks, through Aalten, Bredevoort and/or the swamps Much time and opportunity to meet one another. Evening programme full of surprises.

Sunday, August 19, 2007

Festive commemoration at the Somsen Lime-tree in IJzerlo, the place of our roots. Ballooning or Pleasure flights over Aalten and IJzerlo. Old-Dutch games (also for children!)

Trip by gondola in Bredevoort.

Farewell dinner all together. Linger at the dinner-table 'obliged'!

From Monday, August 20, 2007

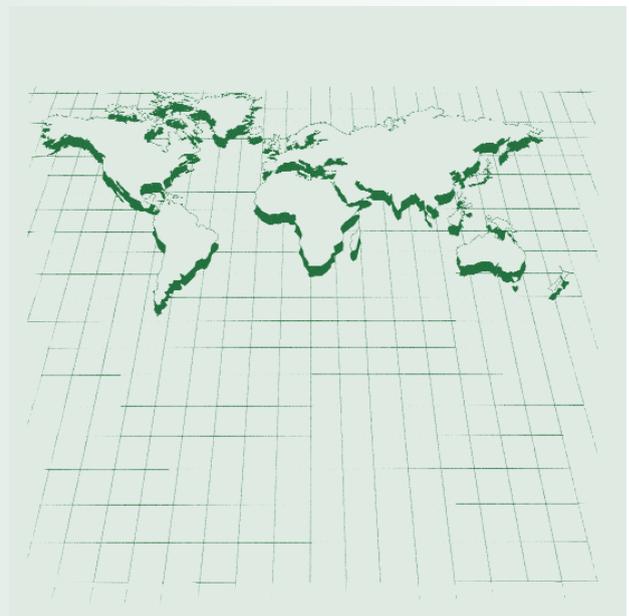
Would you like to see and experience more of The Netherlands?

We offer 2 possibilities:

Three-day round trip of The Netherlands by coach.

Five-day cycling tour through the Netherlands.

NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW:



Somsens at the 25th Truckstar Festival

by Chris Somsen [1382]

The Netherlands owe their prosperity to trade. Everywhere in the world goods are bought and subsequently sold to another place; of course at a profit! So the Dutch drag those goods from pillar to post; by boat, plane, train and . . . truck.

A few Somsens keep up this tradition: the Somsen-Truckers. They enjoy driving those huge trucks. And once a year, together with their family, they enjoy the Truckstar Festival!

as the main attraction like: go-and-stop races, chase races, slalom and truck haulers loading and unloading. But the most beautiful part of the weekend for most truckers is parking their own trucks alongside the circuit.

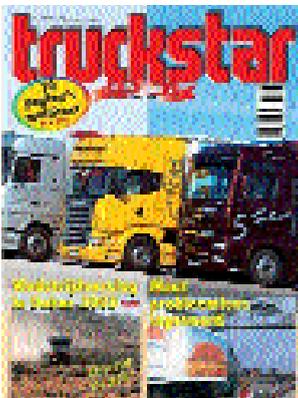
continued on p.15

In the last weekend of July this TRUCKSTAR FESTIVAL took place at the TT circuit in Assen. For the ones that don't know what this means, I'll try to explain.

Truckstar is a monthly magazine for drivers. And as you could read in Somsen Horizon number 8, some of these truckers live in Slagharen. My brother Willem [1378] and I have been subscribers of this magazine Truckstar for a long time. From the beginning this magazine has organised a big happening for and with drivers once a year.



While enjoying a snack and a drink (Grosch-beer!)
l-r: Koen, Bas Smit friend), Willem, Chiel and Dave Somsen (son of Willem)



Truckstar Magazine

The first festival was in 1980 and took place in the Groenoordhallen in Leiden. From 1982 till 1992 the location for this growing Festival was at the race circuit of Zandvoort. Since 1993 the TT circuit in Assen has been the place where the biggest truck show of Europe takes place. During this weekend you can see everything that has to do with transportation and trucks. All the big manufacturers are present. There is a big trucker market. Of course there is also a truck show where you can see many beautifully painted and/or rebuilt trucks. And in front of the main stand of the circuit you can watch different spectacular actions with trucks



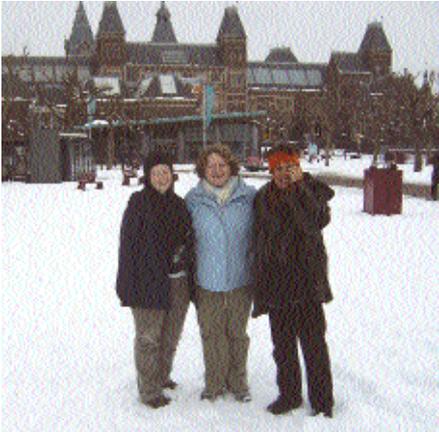
Truckers and family
l-r: Chris, Bart Smit, Miranda Somsen-Bouwhuis, Dave, Chiel, Koen and Willem Somsen

Bitterly cold Holland

by Coby Somsen [2699]

For four months Coby Lynn Somsen from Fort Dodge , Iowa, travelled across the world. From America, via Europe to Africa. But actually she discovered that Holland is the most beautiful country of Europe, even if it was bitterly cold there from 6 – 8 March 2005!

... We then returned to Brussels and Emily and I began the Somsen leg of the trip.



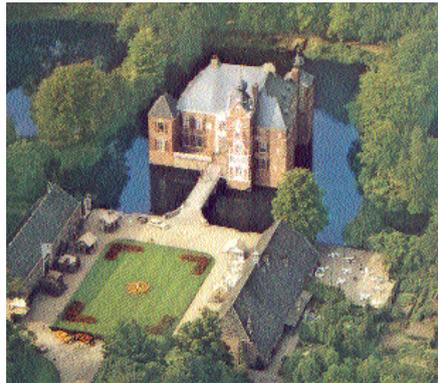
Emily, Coby and Yvonne

Johan Somsen [1089] and Yvonne Reijs-Edel [3926] picked us up in Amsterdam, and we spent a lovely (bitterly cold) afternoon there. We had coffee and incredibly delicious apple pie in the oldest pub in the city, we took a boat tour of the canals and went to the Van Gogh museum, where Emily passed on some of her wealth of art knowledge to me. It was quite a learning experience. Walking the streets of Amsterdam was quite an experience as well: the houses are amazing.

Yvonne was our hostess for the night. We relished in traditional Dutch fare of "stompen endive" (I know I have that wrong! (*Indeed Coby; it's called "stamppot andijvie", editor*), which was a perfect dish for the insanely cold temperatures we were enduring. I believe our travels coincided with the coldest weather in European history (I know that's a huge exaggeration, but it's how we



Wooden shoes from Oene



The Cannenburgh Castle

felt at the time) but we enjoyed every second if it all the same!! After 10 days in various hostels, the luxury of Yvonne's cooking and hospitality was relished to the fullest extent.

The next morning we were passed on to Theo Somsen [227] and enjoyed a couple more days of fabulous Somsen hospitality. Our first day we spent hours driving along the dikes, admiring the views and stopping in various wonderful villages.



Tulips from Elburg



Coby and Theo in front of farmhouse "Pakkebie", where Jan Hendrik and Janna used to live before they emigrated to the USA in 1881



**Farewell at Haldern station (Germany)
l-r: Julia, Liesel, Coby and Emily**

Theo turned out to be a fabulous guide, and we got to see a lot of places off the beaten path. One of our first stops was the castle in Vaassen.

I was particularly enamored by how many villages in the Netherlands have their own castle, a novel idea for this American. We also stopped at the wooden shoe factory and I procured several pairs for my nephews and niece, which made me very popular on my return home! After taking pictures of ourselves clad in "klompen", we decided we'd better find some tulips, we wouldn't want to miss fulfilling any stereotypes!

The next morning we went on a Somsen pilgrimage in Aalten, visiting the *Somsenhuus*, the place where the first person to use the Somsen name lived, as well as the homes of my great grandparents: Jan Hendrik and Janna Somsen-Rauwerdink [308+309], who emigrated to the US in 1881. It was powerful, and a little emotional, to stand where they stood, and to see where they had grown up.

Memorable to say the least. In the States, Somsen isn't a very common name; I'm constantly repeating it, spelling it, then repeating it again.

It was an experience to see it printed in so many places, even a potato farm!

After an exciting meal of "uitschmeiten" (*uitsmijter, editor*), we headed to Germany to stay with more Somsens, Helmut and Liesel Somsen-Blecking [1562+1569] and their daughter Julia [1571], who also treated us fabulously. I'm so grateful for my family!

I found myself thinking over and over again how proud I am to be in this family, to have such a rich, solid history. Emily said a couple times that she envied my family connections. Theo tried to find her a Somsen to marry, but we didn't have any luck. After 2 weeks of European adventures, I headed off to my third continent, onward to Africa!



**Potato farm Prinzen-Somsen in IJzerlo
l-r: Coby, Helmut and Theo**

Mimi inspects dikes of the IJssel River

by Mimi Zwarts-Somsen [445]

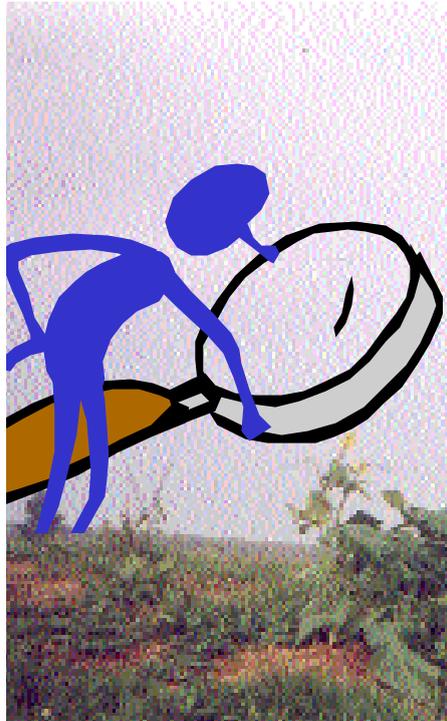
Without dikes more than half of The Netherlands would be flooded. But: who, actually, inspects the condition of the dikes? Take for instance Willemina Hendrika (Mimi) Zwarts-Somsen, even though she doesn't use the word 'inspect' (out of modesty?)

In the daytime or in the evenings I love to go for a walk of about 7 miles. I really love it and when I am almost home again I often think: 'If I would also take this track I could cover another piece of dike.'

'Almost home again' has been a flexible concept to us for the past few years.

The last ten years that we still lived in Ede and partly in Spakenburg I used to go for long walks. Sometimes with my husband Marien [446] but mostly with others for whom walking also had therapeutic value.

In 2000 we moved to Kampen where I developed a totally different walking pattern. Not only did I just have Marien as an occasional companion, but also the tracks were totally different. Varying from a walk to the dike along the IJssel River (about 3 miles), a walk to the new bridge



Mimi inspects the dikes of the IJssel River near Lathum (Gelderland)

(about 5 miles) or a walk to the was good for a walking-tour of 8 to 10 miles. I really love that and I still think when I am almost home: „Shall I go for a few more miles along the dike?“

When we moved to Kampen our two children, Jobim [2034] and King [2035] already lived in nearby Zwolle. That's why I soon got acquainted with the trip to Zwolle, either on my bike or walking, which was just great. Alternatively I took the dike along the IJssel River with the river foreland or the route through the polders, sometimes with pieces of woodland, the locks in the river, the Engelse Werk and the Oude Mars with the forest nearby. In winter there are not so many opportunities in Kampen to go for a walk in the evening. In the darkness with the moon and the stars the dike can be very attractive (even during rainstorms) but still I do not go out so often then. Yet, by accident, I discovered that there are many deer and foxes in this area at dusk.

Since August 2003 our daughter King has lived in Doorwerth with her family. When I went there for the first time to have a look at their new house and to go for a ride on my bike in the environment, I immediately felt the need to live in the woods again and to be with the people with whom I could go for long walks as in the days before we moved to Kampen. By now we have settled in Amersfoort where we moved in the winter of 2004-2005 and we can refresh old memories of the days that we lived in Spakenburg, while walking or cycling. In February 2005 we were back in Kampen again, looking for a place to settle in that area!

Note of the editor:

In October 2005 Mimi and Marien moved to Doorwerth (situated on the southern border of the Veluwe and on the River Rhine). A nice chance for Mimi to inspect the dikes of this river from now on!

Marco defies Jeanne

by Marco Somsen [545]

When your Dutch brother lives and works in Florida you would like to see how he lives there. So, off you go to beautiful Florida in the fall of 2004.

But that you would also meet disastrous Jeanne, that he did not tell you...

Florida September 24 – October 5

On September 23 my dad Bernard Somsen [513] and I flew from Amsterdam to Orlando, Florida. My brother Herbert [543], who lives in Florida, took us to his house in Port Saint Lucie. We were going to stay in his beautiful home, but it was the wrong time to be in Florida. We had just arrived at Herbert's place when there was hurricane-warning on television: Hurricane Jeanne is coming to... Port Saint Lucie!

Soon we were busy barricading the windows and we covered the roof with blue plastic. When the hurricane came close by we took along as much as possible and drove to a shelter. We arrived in a solidly built school where already 100 men, women and children sheltered from the hurricane. Alongside the wall we had a place for ourselves. Food and drinks we could get in the kitchen or we could eat our own food that we had taken along.



Marco defies Jeanne

That night, when the hurricane raged over the city, I slept badly.

The next day, Sunday, September 26, we got breakfast and I talked to other evacuees.

Around 12 o'clock we were allowed to go home again. We drove to Herbert's house which looked all right, at least at a first glance.

When we walked around the house we saw the damage to what used to be the lean-to roof around his pool. Everywhere there were pieces of shingles from the roof in the grass. The blue plastic of the roof was ripped. A palm tree stood slanting in the garden.

The days after hurricane Jeanne we were busy cleaning up the mess around Herbert's house. The factory where he works had also been damaged seriously.



Herbert's house after the hurricane



This used to be a roof

After we had cleaned everything it was time for a real vacation! On Tuesday, September 28t we drove down to Miami. There we walked on famous Miami Beach. A day later we visited a safari park (Billy Swamp Safari). Together with the other tourists we took an airboat tour through a swamp full of alligators. At Bonita Beach we walked along the Gulf of Mexico on a beach full with

beautiful shells. We also stayed a day close by home and drove through Herbert's home city Port Saint Lucie and some places in the neighbourhood.

On Friday, October 1, we drove through Florida to St. Petersburg and Tampa, where we crossed the enormous Skyway Bridge. In the weekend of October 2 and 3 Herbert and I went fishing in a river near the city (we caught nothing!). Only once I swam in the pool at the back of Herbert's house. And one time Herbert's boss took us for a boat trip through the watery area.



Miami Beach: Herbert, Marco and Bernard Somsen

On Monday, October 4, we packed our suitcases and drove to Orlando. There we looked for the house of Jon and Karen Somsen-Ryan [2389+3873] and a while later we sat with them in the living room. Jon's parents, Roger and Marilyn Somsen-Dallman [2387+2388] were also there; they had just got back from a visit to Wisconsin (see SH-15, page 8, for the picture of their meeting). Together we ate and we had a good time. Unfortunately we had to leave for the airport where Herbert led us to the right gate. And so my dad and I flew back to Holland in the middle of the night after an unforgettable Florida-trip!



Liberated, but no clothes to put on

by Theo Somsen [227]

After the liberation of Holland by the allies in the spring of 1945 there were some meagre years for the Dutch. Rebuilding the country and the economy became the first priority and therefore the population had to tighten its belt. There was an enormous shortage of practically everything. Many goods were rationed and distributed. The Somsens in Baldwin knew about this and started sending clothes to their relatives in Gelderland who were in need.

Jan and Anna Somsen-Kemink [352+353] visited Jan's cousins in Baldwin, Wisconsin, in the summer of 1949. From their diary, which they kept at the time, I selected a number of their experiences (see Somsen Horizon 15). Sien Overduin-Somsen [400], who was 15 in 1949, reacted to this article:

The article about Uncle Jan and Aunt Anna in Baldwin brought many memories back to life again. I can still hear their stories during a visit to Eibergen, especially about eating habits: hanging on the table, one arm around the plate and a fork or a spoon in the other hand. Neat Aunt Anna could not appreciate that! Shortly after their visit we received a package with clothes for the (war) cousins in Eibergen. The Somsen girls and the Klijn Hesslink girls got suits from the distant cousins from Baldwin. In my photo album there is still a picture of Riek Klijn Hesselink, my sister Wil and myself in those clothes. I believe that the Arnhem relatives also received a package.

To be sure, the Johan and Marie Somsen-Meijnhardt [226+354] family from Arnhem also received these clothes packages. Very proudly they had their pictures taken for which they dressed in the clothes and shoes they had received. Ariaan Rodenburg-Somsen [389], 10 at the time, still remembers that her mother is wearing shoes in the picture that were a bit tight actually.



The three Eibergen belles 1949
l-r: Willemina Hendrika (Wil) Somsen [398], Hendrika (Riek) Klijn Hesselink [611] and Gesina Johanna Theodora (Sien) Somsen [400]

The family picture was sent tot the cousins in Baldwin: Jennie, Dena en Ella [335+337+339] (three professional needlewomen!) as an acknowledgement of receipt and as an expression of gratitude.

The Baldwin Somsens did not only send clothes packages. Among the clothes (very good casing) they tucked away household articles like a currant juice bowl, which Riek de Groot-Klijn Hesselink still remembers:

I have always used that bowl for currant juice. When my mother, Johanna Berendina Klijn Hesselink-Somsen [358], was still living in the Whemerhof (an old people's home) in Eibergen there were two desserts she never got: tutti frutti and semolina pudding with currant juice.



The currant juice bowl



Somsen-Meijnhardt Family, Arnhem 1947
l-r: Ariaantje Klaasje [389], Johanna Berendina [392], Johannes Theodorus [226], Theodorus Dirk Frederik [227]. Maria Johanna Meijnhardt [354] and Derk Jan Willem [391]

When my mother stayed in Nijkerk my sister Gesina Hendrika (Sina) Vermeiden-Klijn Hesselink [609] always made tutti frutti for her and when she stayed with us in Emmen I always made semolina pudding with currant juice. And I always put the currant juice in the bowl from America. And we still use it for currant juice today!



Picture Puzzle

Just after the Second World War Jan and Anna Somsen-Kemink [352+353] celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in restaurant Stegers in the Marketplace in Aalten. Though they married on September 3 in 1920, the wedding was celebrated in August 1945.

Innumerable family members and friends were present and a fine group photograph was taken of the whole company. It is still clear to be seen that during the war the restaurant was damaged. Of many of the partygoers we know the names, but not of everybody. Therefore we need your help. Especially from our readers who live in Aalten, Dinxperlo, Suderwick (Germany) and Bocholt (Germany). For every addition the Somsen Foundation will reward you with a surprise! Your solutions can be forwarded to our editor Theo Somsen (see Colophon) by phone or mail.



Partygoers 25th wedding anniversary
Jan Willem (Jan) Somsen and Johanna Frederika (Anna) Kemink

from top to bottom and left to right:

- row 1 : Jan Hoopman (1886-1950), Willy Veldhorst-Kemink, Riek Kempel-Kemink, unknown, Johannes Theodorus (Johan) Somsen (1894-1967), Derk Jan (Jan) Bussink (1911-1984), Unknown, Willemina Hendrika (Drika) Somsen-Smits (1908-1993), Dirk Johan (Dirk) Somsen (1905-1988), unknown, unknown.
- row 2 : Rudolf Kemink, Hanna Kemink-Westerfeld, Fritz Alofs, Gerrit Kemink, unknown, Lisa Kemink-Schalhoff, Maria Johanna (Marie) Somsen-Meijnhardt (1906-1990), unknown, unknown, Gerd Alofs, unknown, Johan Meinen Sr. (1884-1961), unknown, unknown, Jan Bakker, Jan de Vries (Amsterdam).
- row 3: Wilhelmina Johanna (Jo) Somsen-Kämink (1882-1976), Lies Alofs-Kemink, Johanna Willemina (Anna) Hoopman-Somsen (1889-1962), unknown, Engelina Kemink-Koskamp (3rd wife of Frits Kemink, father of the bride), unknown, Jan Willem (Jan) Somsen (1892-1974), Johanna Frederika (Anna) Somsen-Kemink (1893-1992), Berendina (Dina) Bussink-Somsen (1883-1957), Hendrina (Drika) Meinen-Somsen (1886-1958), unknown, Harmina Hendrika (Riek) Heinen-Rots (1904-1998), Sientje de Vries-unknown (Amsterdam).



An acrostic from 1901

by Gus Somsen [97]

At every wedding there are presents and sometimes these are even homemade, for instance a poem. But who has still got time these days to make an acrostic, a poem of which the first letters of every line form your family name? Or even a double acrostic? Gerrit and Geertje Somsen-van Driel received such a splendid wedding gift in 1901. Maybe a good idea to do it yourself?!

My grandfather and namesake Gezinus Somsen [19], born in Aalten on March 10, 1868, graduated as a teacher at the age of eighteen. After having taught in Aalten for a short period Gerrit, as he was called, moved westwards because of an appointment in Charlois, a municipality south-west of Rotterdam; it had been annexed by this city in 1870.

Next to his teaching he went on studying and on August 24, 1893 he graduated as a headmaster. Soon afterwards he was appointed as a teacher at a denominational school in IJsselmonde, a suburb of Rotterdam. From a letter of recommendation from 1895 by a member of the board of the school in IJsselmonde, Mr H. van Winkelhof, it becomes clear that he aspired to get the position of a headmaster. The letter was addressed to the denominational school in Noordeloos, but Gerrit did not get the post, though. Some years later he was more successful. On April 1, 1898, he was appointed headmaster of the denominational school in Bolnes. Not long afterwards he got to know Geertrui (Geertje) van Driel [79]. On January 31, 1901 they married. Not long before his wedding Gerrit received a poem from his friend Gideon Boekenoogen who lived in Friesland. He had been a Christian Reformed minister in Rozenburg from 1896 to 1898 and he from 1898 he was minister in Sint Annaparochie. The poem is a double acrostic, in which both the first letters and the last letters of each line form a name. It was very popular in the Renaissance and obviously also for the Reverend Boekenoogen.

Even though this poem is somewhat artificial today, in the eyes of our nineteenth century ancestors it is bound to have been different.



Denominational School – Bolnes 1902
right: Gezinus (Gerrit) Somsen

The poem follows here:

Somsen

Soms en geeft het niet	dan zegeN
Op wat wegen onze God ons leidt;	van 't weE
Merkt men niets,	van 't wel des levenS
Smaakt de ziel véél zoets;	toch kwaM
Evenals de zon na regen,'t lief na 't leed,	zoO
Nu ook:	God kroont 't werk na 't kruise

Soms, en nú vooral,	mag 't klageN
Op uw "Slagen" allerminst geschiên,	die 't dêE
Maakte 't aambeeld	stut des mookerS
Stil dies 't Staal gewet !	Al kwaM
Eerst na 't "blokken" 't blij genieten;'t goud uit schuim;	zoO
Neemt nu 't lied	toch 't kleed des lofS

Somsen	U gelukkig prijzeN
Op wat wijzen't hart de snaren stemt -	'k doe meE
Mocht g'als Hoofd in 't vuur	uws geesteS
Stalen	Hollands knapendoM!
En wees dra - "in éigen kring -	Souverein" ! ZoO
Noem 'k u hoofd	van "School" èn "HuiS"

t.t.
Gideon

Gideon Boekenooogen, for that matter, was all but an artificial person. As a minister he always went straight for his aims in everyday language. This becomes clear from a newspaper article by A.J. Klei in the daily newspaper *Trouw* of August 13, 1983 on the occasion of the publication of a book *Gideon on the dance floor* in Sint Annaparochie, in which we are given information about the Rev. Boekenooogen. I borrow two events from this article. After a meeting of the church authorities they have some rather expensive rolls in a coffee house. Then Boekenooogen says grace after the meal: „We thank you for these rolls, even though they cost a fortune“.

And when there is a party Boekenooogen is responsible for a song: „We sing at this party in honour of the Lord, but we also enjoy in waggish conversation“.

My grandfather celebrated his 25th anniversary as headmaster of the school in Bolnes in 1923 and he died in 1925, just before his 25th wedding anniversary. Gideon Boekenooogen served Sint Annaparochie until his retirement in 1928. He died in 1937.

Finally: above-mentioned H. van Winkelhof was Hendrik van Winkelhof's [116] grandfather, who married Geertrui Gezina Somsen [88], Gerrit's youngest daughter. Sometimes history shows remarkable patterns.

**COME
TO THE
REUNION
IN 2007**

Crashmuseum in Lievelede

by Johan Somsen [1029]

During the Somsen Camping Weekend in IJzerlo in August a group of 21 Somsens visited the Crashmuseum in Lievelede, where they were given a guided tour by the very enthusiastic administrator, Mr. J. Geerdinck. The Crashmuseum has a large collection consisting of remains of planes that crashed in De Achterhoek during The Second World War. Furthermore it plays an important role in the completion of the list of people missing.



Crashmuseum

In the Second World War 7.500 aircraft crashed in The Netherlands, 400 of which crashed in The Achterhoek. In The Achterhoek a foundation was established, the AVOG Foundation (Achterhoek Aircraft Excavating Group), which has been busy detecting and salvaging aircraft wrecks since 1972. Since they have found many wrecks they have also been able to discover the identities of many crew members and Mr Geerdinck could tell us about it with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The many contacts with old-pilots and also with many relatives of air force men who were killed give this museum a very warm and humane atmosphere whereas at first sight it is a large collection of old aircraft engines. Our visit was very much worthwhile and not in the least because of the enthusiasm of our guide.

From Dinxperlo to St. Catharines (vice versa)

by Emma Somsen [1190]

Emma Somsen [1190] and Teun Hunse [68] were both present at the reunion in 1997. Teun visited that reunion together with his wife Jo Somsen [63], who unfortunately passed away a few years ago. Together with Jo, Teun emigrated to Canada in 1950. After the reunion Teun Hunse quite regularly revisited his native country. During these visits Teun and Emma met at Somsen camping-weekends or on Somsen boat-trips and consequently they decided to pay each other a visit.

September 2004: On my way to Canada

After a good flight Teun meets me at the airport of Toronto. In the evening we borrow a bike from a neighbour and reconnoitre the environment, especially the harbour of St. Catharines.

The next day we buy enough provisions for a long weekend in a holiday home of friends of Teun, about a 4 to 5-hour drive to the north. Halfway we have a break at the house of Teun's son Tom [191] and his family where we have coffee. The more we go north, the more beautiful the scenery is, especially the autumn colours of the Indian Summer. The holiday home is situated in a very quiet area, a beautiful walking-area with many lakes. We also go fishing, which is not a great success, but the boat-trip is very nice.

On Tuesday we return to St. Catharines where we have been invited for dinner by Teun's daughter Jane [189] and his son-in-law Bert de Bolster [192]. And of course we pay a visit to Bert's greenhouses. Thursday: Niagara Falls! How impressive, what a great experience! Friday evening we go to a concert in a very nice town and the next evening we have dinner at a restaurant with a splendid view of the water. On Sunday I meet Dutch people in church who have relatives in Dinxperlo; what a small world! On Monday my stay with Teun is finished and I leave for my next host: Gerrie Hengeveld, who is from Dinxperlo, and who invited me some years ago to visit her in Mississauga, a suburb of Toronto (are there any more nice people who invite me for a visit?).

Together we visit Toronto, the CN Tower and an Indian village: one part shows what it is like today and another what it was like in the past. On Friday my trip to Canada is finished and the next day I am back in Dinxperlo, safe and sound.

June 2005: On my way to the Achterhoek

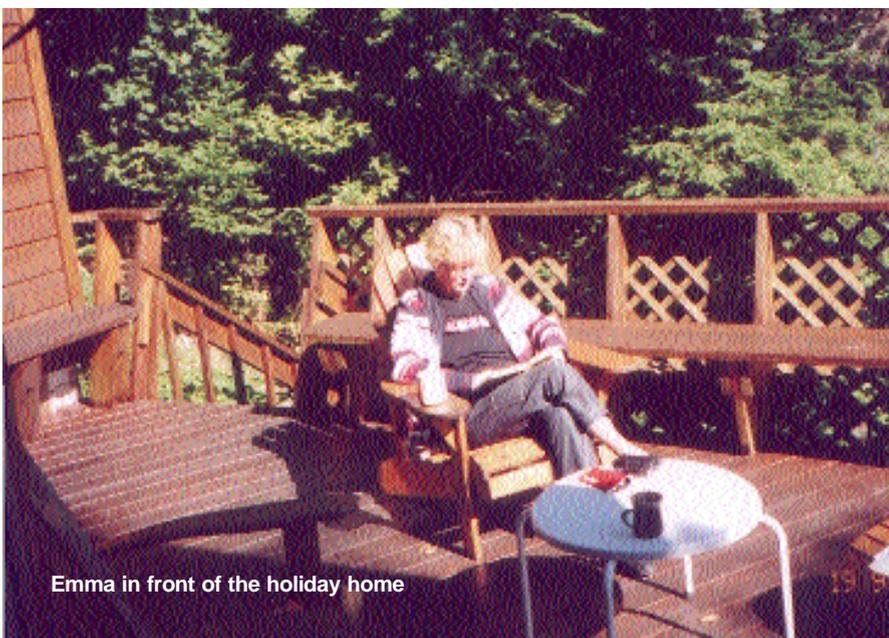
Emma had made „wentelteefjes“, a typically Dutch dish, for lunch on Saturday, June 11. In the afternoon we made a cycling-tour and visited the Borderland Museum in Dinxperlo first. Then we cycled along the small river AA-Strang to Anholt in Germany where we visited the gardens of the Castle of Anholt.



Teun crosses the 'green border' at Essinkweg in IJzerlo

We also went to Small Switzerland, a biotopical nature reserve with bears and wolves. We finished that day in Emma's home and had delicious Nasi Goreng.

On Sunday afternoon we went by car to the bordering village of Suderwick in Germany where we saw the sculptures of the smuggler. Then we went to the smallest church in Holland: The Rietstap. We continued our trip to the iron museum in Ulft, Bergh Castle in 's Heerenberg and hilly Montferland, where we made a walk. Via Beek and Elten we went to Hoch Elten (Germany) where we had pancakes.



Emma in front of the holiday home

Next we drove to the German city of Emmerich on the River Rhine and then we returned to Dinxperlo by way of the villages of Netterden, Mechelen, Gendringen and Voorst. On Monday we had dinner in the Yugoslav restaurant „Milo“, which is situated on Heelweg (“Heelstreet”) in Dinxperlo, right on the border. Heelweg (“Heelstreet”) itself is the border between The Netherlands and Germany. People living on the one side of this street live in The Netherlands and the neighbours across the road live in Germany. This is very special.

We made another cycling-tour on Tuesday. We went along the border, mainly on the Dutch side of it, towards Winterswijk. We crossed several „green borders“ (border-crossings which used to be unmanned and which could only be used by neighbouring farmers, editor). After a lunch in the bio-dynamic farm, The Ypenburg, on the border of the towns of Aalten and Winterswijk, we headed for the nature reserve The Bekkendelle. Seated on a park bench we enjoyed beautiful nature and ate bananas and apples. Our cycling-tour was not over yet, for by way of the „Italian Lakes“ and the cheese-farm Harminehoeve we rode via a green border-crossing to Barlo in Germany. There we visited the Caste „Schloss Diepenbrock“ where they serve delicious food, which we enjoyed very much!

Fully satisfied we rode back to Dinxperlo by way of the German towns of Bocholt, Holtwick and Suderwick.

see p. 5

With the exception of the part in front of the main stand the rest of the circuit is reserved for the subscribers of Truckstar to park their trucks there and spend the weekend with their family, friends and colleagues.



Sleeping and eating (barbecue) takes place around the truck while the trailer is used as a dining and bedroom. The Saturday night is very special. For when the daily visitors have gone the party begins with a barbecue. After that we go to the drivers' quarters where you can watch many performances. The annual highlight is Henk Wijngaard about whom everybody says that they don't have any music by him, but when „De vlam in de pijp“ sounds over the 'Drentse heide' (surrounding area) everybody sings at the top of their voices.

We also visit the fair and after that we go home, that is, to the truck. We spend the rest of the evening meeting and talking to colleagues

while enjoying a snack and a drink. When on Sunday we have finished the bacon and eggs we make a round along the different stands, show trucks and demonstrations. At four o'clock the gates open again and the trucks go home in convoy. Hundreds of people stand alongside highway A28 to wave goodbye. This return journey gives you such a good feeling that the rest of the year you can laugh away all the bad things that happen on the road.

Every year we have to wait and see if we are lucky in the raffle. There is place for 2.000 trucks, 500 of which have already been reserved. The other 1.500 places are raffled amongst 4.000 truckers who have registered. The condition is that you are a subscriber of Truckstar. I was so lucky in these raffles that I got tickets eight times.

Because there were seven Somsens present this year, it seemed to me a good moment to let you know that the Truckstar Festival is also visited by the Somsens .

With thanks to *Oegema Transport* who made „my“ car available!

**COME TO
THE REUNION
IN 2007**



Campingweekend IJzerlo

by Wim Somsen [518]

The weekend was different from all the other weekends. I didn't stay on the campsite myself this year and wasn't present during the activities on Saturday either. Then you miss the right atmosphere, you are more like a visitor. There were some heavy showers so that those who slept in a tent got really soaked.

We received a most distressing message on Friday morning. Mr Veerbeek, the inhabitant of the Japikshuis, had passed away on Thursday. Every year the Veerbeek Family used to give us a hearty welcome during the Somsen weekend when we paid them a visit and when we could admire our Somsen lime-tree. Counting from the worldwide reunion this would have been the tenth time.

The loss will be great for the Veerbeek family but we will also miss Mr Veerbeek. The pleasant welcome every year, a welcome drink, being together in a very pleasant atmosphere; these are good memories.

As usual the weekend begins on Thursday evening with a board meeting, this time at the home of Ben Somsen in Eibergen. We have made daring plans about which you can read more elsewhere in this magazine. On Friday the camping gradually fills when all the guests who will stay for a few days arrive. That is the hard core that never fails to attend these weekends, though some are forced to pack up their things on Saturday evening because of heavy rainstorms. Very early on Saturday morning Theo leaves for the antiquarian book market in Bredevoort. Since he has retired and is no longer in a position to fill in his own income tax papers he has to increase his income by selling second-hand books.

On Saturday afternoon a fairly large group visits the Crash-museum in Lievelede. Afterwards I hear enthusiastic stories about this visit.

There are about 40 people who join the traditional barbecue. Rudolf Brunsveld has, in spite of the busyness around the IJzerlo festival where he is the director of the open-air play, managed to prepare very tasteful food. We are very glad with our oldest participant: Aunt Zus [87] and we can even welcome Somsen visitors from Switzerland. The atmosphere is, as always, very relaxed, family ties are renewed, old memories are called up and in the meantime everybody enjoys the food and the drinks. In spite of the appeal to the men that they may also assist in doing the dishes there are far more women who make themselves useful. mancipation of women seems to have been forgotten for a while, but thanks to the regular washing-up team everything is perfectly clean again.

As always it is late again. For some Somsens there is long trip by car and the die-hards disappear to the campsite. Joke and I go to The Heurne on our bikes.

We hope to see you again in the second weekend of August next year.



**Johan and Hanna Verbeek
Reunion 1997**



After the rainstorm from Thursday to Friday

Memories of Woodville, Wisconsin, USA

by Paula Crist-Somsen [816]

When she read an alarming newspaper article about the Woodville Elevator Paula Crist-Somsen wrote down her childhood memories for a local paper of that town, the place where she was born and bred. The Elevator, which had been founded by her grandfather, William Somsen [326], and which afterwards was run by her father, Ray Somsen [810], plays an important role in her story. We have abridged her story for Somsen Horizon and only used the relevant passages that reveal something about the history of an American Somsen.

top of the stairs is still on the ledge above the landing. As the metal has been ripped from the building, we can see a light blue color on parts of the building. We had forgotten that the entire building used to be that color. The doors to that south store-room had been covered up completely with the siding, so it was interesting to see them and remember their former existence.

When I received my Feb. 23 edition of the Woodville Leader and read the first headline: "Why is This Building Still Standing?????????", I felt very sad. The first reason is that my father Ray Somsen owned the Woodville Elevator and that business helped him earn a living to raise five children. The second reason is that it is one of the last iconic buildings in town that remind many of us of what Woodville used to look and sound like.

look at the Elevator) we see many memories. We kids and our friends were always welcome at the "feed mill" as it was also referred to. We watched Dad, Grandpa and Uncle Harry wait on customers (when we were small enough, we could stand in the open space under the counter, hiding from the farmers while Dad and Grandpa helped them) and we found plenty of ways to play in the building.



Woodville Elevator 2005

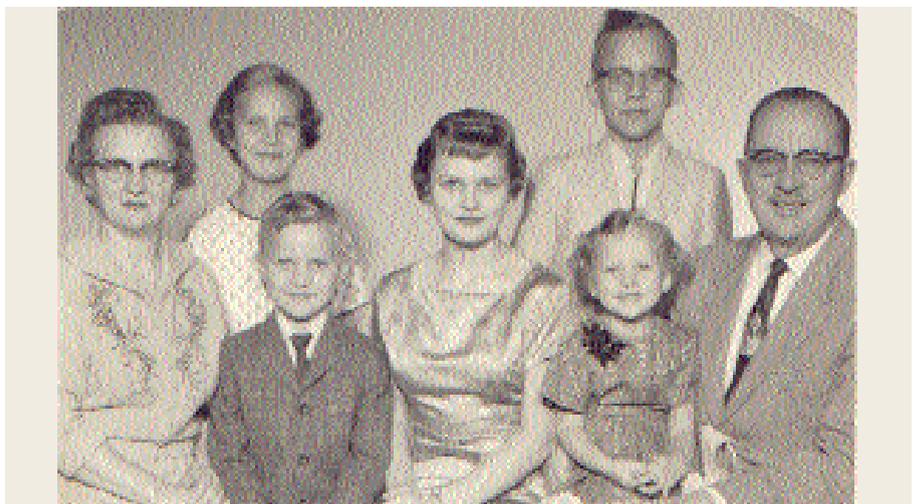


Woodville Elevator 1934



William Somsen 1934

When my siblings and I look at the Elevator as it is today (and yes, we walk through town, sit on the bench in front of the old Citizen's State Bank building with the rippled glass in the doorway and



The Somsen-Forman family, ca. 1960

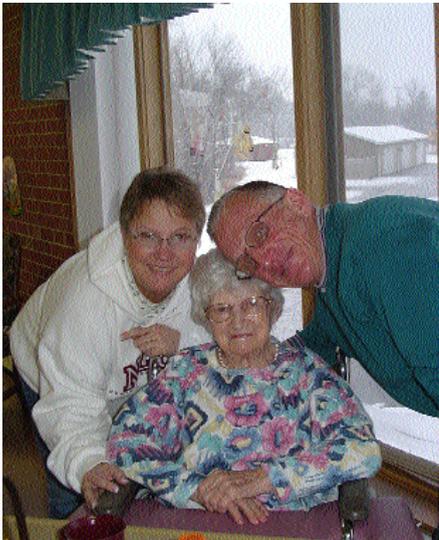
I-r: Sally Somsen-Forman [811], Paula [816], Jan [818], Cindy [814], Bill [815], Mary [820] and Ray Somsen [810]

As we look now at that structure in its partial condition, we are surprised at the things that are still there. The door at the sidewalk level is the same door we always entered through in the evenings. I wonder if the skeleton key for the door at the

As for what the elevator meant to the town of Woodville, it was one of the business hubs. Five and half days a week, the elevator's mill ran. I remember checking what note the tone of that sound was. It was either a G or A on the piano!



Farmers were in town on a regular basis. On Fridays, especially, the farmers and their families came to town for the shopping. Someone provided a Friday movie for us kids, pulling a huge white tarp onto two high posts by the building we



l-r: Paula, Sally and Bill 2005

referred to as "the pickle factory" near Mrs. Gossel's house on Main Street. We kids would bring blankets down, buy penny candy from the drug store, have our moms make popcorn for us, and we watched movies like "Ma and Pa Kettle" and "North to Alaska" while the adults did their shopping and visited with each other in different locations on Main Street. The farmers kept businesses thriving in Woodville.

Woodville also had two train depots, one on each end of town. Trains were a regular event in town; the Elevator always got its grain deliveries by train, delivered to that back door of the south store room. It was a common sight to have some train cars standing on the tracks behind the elevator. And it was a common sight to see us kids climbing all over them when they were left unattended. We always wished we could get into the cabooses, but the best we could do was peek through the windows.

As I said, the farmers kept businesses alive in Woodville. So, when I look

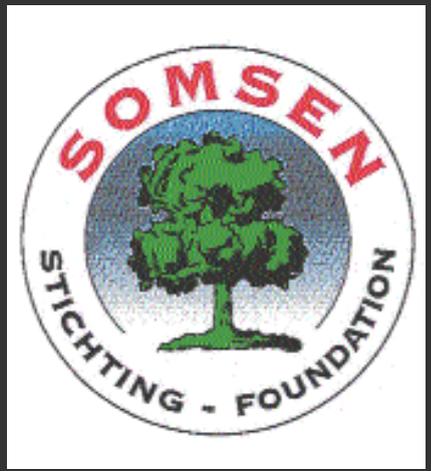
at the elevator building, I don't see the eyesore that it has become to many. It is one of the last remaining reminders of what Woodville used to be. I was saddened by the unemotional headline as much as I am saddened by the impending disappearance of a building that has meant so much, at least to me and my family. The old phrase, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" holds so very true in the case of the dilapidated building that still stands at the end of Main Street.

Dad, Grandpa, Grandma and Jan are gone. Mom is 90 years old and is living at Park View. Our personal connections to Woodville have weakened, but in our hearts it is still home and always will be. Our family house is filled with another family with several kids. That is the way that house should be enjoyed: with kids. It was a wonderful home for us and we will always have deeply emotional memories of our idyllic and loving childhoods. As our children look at what things DON'T happen in Woodville, we love telling them the stories of what USED TO happen. And I am sure we are not the only ones who have these stories to tell. Woodville was a great little town to grow up in. I am thankful that the Elevator is still standing if for no other reason that it gave me a good chance to write a letter I have been thinking about for quite a while.

**COME
TO THE
REUNION
IN 2007**

**Note in your
diary
now!**

**17-19
august
2007**



**3rd
worldwide
Somsen
reunion!**

Family Announcements

In this column we would like to draw your attention to the family announcements that have reached us. We are very much pleased to present them to you and are grateful to everybody who took the trouble to inform us about the merry and sad events in their and our family. This also enables our advisor Dick Somsen from Zwolle to keep our genealogical files up-to-date, so that we, in turn, can inform you in Somsen Horizon. We really appreciate it very much that you send in your family announcements (together with pictures please!) to our secretariat: Somsen Foundation, Jan Tooropstraat 2, 3817 PZ Amersfoort, The Netherlands.

Born

11-03-2005: Isabel Raven [5428] d.o. Franck Hogervorst [4933] and Isolde Elise Somsen [550]

12-06-2005: Nathan Daniel [5427] s.o. Marcel Raymond Somsen [1196] and Paulina Jochiema (Lione) van Klij [4961]

17-08-2005: Friso Theodorus Coert [5429] s.o. Marnix Johannes Cornelis Somsen [228] and Allette Willemine Zoethout [3757]



Friso Somsen

Married 50 years

23-09-2005: Bernardus Christiaan Somsen [513] and Hermina Johanna Klandermand [515]



Hermien and Bernard Somsen-Klandermand

Registered Partnership

24-02-2003: Christopher Johan Herman Somsen [529] and Léontine Marquerite Hélène Kalmijn [5424]

„Living-together“ contract

10-12-2004: Jan Dijksterhuis [5421] and Willemina Johanna (Jos) Somsen [1426]

Deceased

15-03-2005

Wilhelmina Luiten-ter Horst [992], 92
Aalten

12-07-2005

Leida Voltman-de Jong [3039], 81
Aalten

19-07-2005

Mary Janet Somsen-Flaskamp [2324], 90
Avon, Connecticut, USA



Janet Somsen-Flaskamp

05-09-2005

Willemina Hendrika (Wieke) Overduin [417], 43
Utrecht

Backpage::

1945-2005: 60 years liberation

On the backpage you will find a photo collage of a number of posters and texts that were spread all over the country just after the liberation in 1945.

