

Somsen horizon

Volume 9 - nummer 17 - May 2006

Splendid the way they do their best!

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



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

Half-yearly familymagazine

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Colophon**Somsen Horizon**

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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!

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

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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 archieve 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:

*Mike [3159] and
Marieke [725]
Edwards-Jager Gerlings
(see also pages 10-11)*

Voorwoord



I am very proud that the 17th issue of our family magazine "Somsen Horizon" has reached you.

When we decided to establish the Somsen Foundation after our first great Somsen Reunion in 1997 it was a matter of course that we should also publish a family magazine. At that time we could not surmise that no less than 17 issues would see the light. It is always exciting, though, if we will get enough copy and that's why you are always very welcome to supply your stories and if writing does not come that easy you are more than welcome to acquaint us with particular events in your life or family and then we will edit your story and see to it that it will be published in our magazine.

Furthermore we are always very urgently short of people who are willing to assist us from time to time translating a few articles into English. Since this task is carried on the shoulders of only one person we are very vulnerable. So, also from this angle, I would like to incite you to make your contribution: please check in with us to translate a few lines for our Magazine from time to time.

Now that I am in the process of challenging you I might just as well add the following appeal: since the establishment of our foundation, almost nine years ago, we have had a fair number of supporters but because of ordinary developments the number of supporters has decreased to a certain extent, mainly because there is little growth on the part of the younger generation. Genealogical affairs and everything

connected with it is a matter that does not concern us in our younger years. In most cases we are only interested in our own family history when it is too late to ask our parents or grandparents. Yet I would like to call upon you to also stimulate the younger generation to become supporters of our family foundation.

In the present issue you will find a colourful collection of Somsens

again with their stories about events in their lives, great and small. I wish you a lot of pleasure in reading this and I would like to express my wish that reading this magazine may excite you to comply with my earlier appeal.

On behalf of the board,
Johan F. Somsen

**All the 17 editions of Somsen Horizon are also to be found on our website www.somsen.org
In Dutch and in English!
And last but not least . . . all photographs are in colour!
Take a look.**

FINANCIAL SURVEY 2005

Results 2005

Baten		Expenses	
Donations	€ 2.683	Somsen Horizon	€ 1.764
		Remaining expenses	614
		Credit balance	305
	€ 2.683		€ 2.683

Balance-sheet 31-12-2005

Assets		Liabilities	
Bank accounts	€ 5.042	Donations 2006	€ 1.730
Debtors	50	Reserve difference of exchange	867
		General reserve	2.495
	€ 5.092		€ 5.092



Henk Somsen and the Groenlo Cannon

adapted by Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]

Groenlo, a small late-medieval fortified city in the Achterhoek, celebrated a lot of festivals in October 2005 and this is a regular custom. This is done in order to promote the city. During the Eighty-Years' War (1568-1648) the city was controlled by the Spaniards for many years, until Grolle (Groenlo) surrendered to Frederik Hendrik, Prince of Orange, nicknamed the "city-conqueror", on August 18, 1627. This battle was reconstructed in October by "De Grolse Compagnie". The age-old cannon of Groenlo had to be restored for that purpose.

consider this to be a great moment. "This wood has been stored for one and a half years", Nijenhuis calculates. "That is a must, outside, so that it gets wet from time to time and so that it can dry again as well. In this way the caustic solution in the wood will disappear." Moreover, a great many preparations had to be dealt with before the real reconstruction could be started. After the "Compagnie" had bought a huge oak-tree which had fallen down, somewhere in the German



Prince Frederik Hendrik of Orange



The Siege of Groenlo in 1627

Reconstructing a cannon is precision work

The gun carriage for the original Groenlo cannon from 1627 is a heavy, cumbersome wooden hulk. But it takes quite a lot of precision to make a replica of the original.



The Groenlo Cannon

The workshop of woodwork place Hoffman in Beltrum on a Saturday morning. The light is burning. In the typical, sweetish scent that is characteristic of a woodwork place, **Henk Somsen** [519] is meticulously and with great concentration working with a shredder and a level. The first of the two sides of the gun carriage for the Groenlo cannon lies on the racks. After cutting out the shape the oak hulk has to be made totally smooth and straight. There may not be a single unevenness. Wim Nijenhuis and Xander Lutikholt, men of "De Grolse Compagnie", watch Henk Somsen with great precision while he doing his job, for they

border area, the tree was taken to a sawmill where it was cut in pieces. Practical jokers from Beltrum, a neighbouring village, though, had taken away the wood.

When the Groenlo carnival society "De Knunnekes" did not want to accept their playful demands, they returned the wood for fear of legal steps.

Taking into account with what precision carpenter Henk Somsen is working on the gun carriage it will certainly take a few Saturdays before the job is finished. The old worm-eaten parts are used as molds for the new parts.

Part after part is cut out, but since the sides are not exactly straight, he cannot use a sawing-machine. When in the end all parts are ready, both the sides and the cross beams, the holes for the joints will have to be made and Henk will also have to drill holes for the iron parts. Only then everything can be put together.

Wim Nijenhuis: "The old iron parts are totally sandblasted by Reukers in Eibergen. Only the parts that are out of sight will be coated with primer, on the outside we let it rust a little and then we will cover it with linseed oil, just as they used to do that in the old days. The woodwork, for that matter, will also be covered with a thin layer of linseed oil for in The Eighty Years' War they did not know lacquer."

It is a disappointment that the original wheels cannot be used anymore since they have rotted away. Replicas of the wheels will be made in the same way as old cartwheels were made with axles and wooden spokes but much heavier then. The weight of the complete cannon will be two and a half tons, so the wheels have to be very strong, but also very wide with two-inch hoops around them so that they will not sink into the earth.



I-r: Xander Lutikholt, Henk Somsen and Wim Nijenhuis
(photo Theo Kock)

This is rather expensive so "De Grolse Compagnie" is still vehemently looking for sponsors. Even more so since the initiators also want an extra undercarriage so that the cannon can be drawn by horses.

"Actually, this is the forerunner of the tank", says Nijenhuis.

Welcome in 1627

Henk Somsen and his friends have

received much credit because of their job. In October last year "De Grolse Compagnie" triumphantly rolled the cannon through the city with the slogan Welcome in 1627.

Source: Article by Lucien Baard in *Tubantia*. Borrowed with permission and slightly adapted by the editor of *Somsen Horizon*.



Henk and "his" Cannon

Happiness in Denver, Colorado

by Anja D'Angelo-Somsen [426]

Johanna Hendrika (Anja) Somsen, who was born in Eibergen in 1968, met a very nice American on the small North Sea island of Vlieland. The consequences were enormous! Anja is our guide on their tour that finally took them from Vlieland, by way of Schiphol Airport, Delft and Orlando, to Denver, Colorado.

1993 - 1997

After that John Robert D'Angelo [3820] and I met in the Golden Tulip Hotel on the island of Vlieland in 1993 we travelled around the world for five years. John worked as a pianist and entertainer and I called myself a "professional tourist". John was born and bred in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and he grew up in an American-Italian family. We married in 1997; within one month we had two small weddings for the official ceremony was held in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, and the religious marriage in the Dutch Reformed Church of Eibergen with coffee and flan in the church centre "Trefpunt".

Schiphol and Delft

In 1998 we settled down in The Netherlands for a couple of years.

I worked for KLM on Schiphol Airport and John was desk top publisher for Klats in Delft.

John played the piano quite regularly on private parties. Playing in the Sky Boxes during the European Soccer Championships and on my mother's 60th birthday were high-lights. Especially for John it was a good experience to live and work in "my culture" for a longer period.

Orlando and Denver

After three years in Delft we crossed the ocean to Orlando, Florida, where I started looking for a job with an airline company... maybe Martinair?

Of course this was not so easy after 9/11. I did not succeed in finding a job over there. Until I walked into the Hyatt Hotel near Orlando Airport and handed in my application.



Anja and John

We both got a job there. We worked in Orlando for three years with much pleasure.

I was a Front Office Manager and John worked in various departments, such as, Reservations, Housekeeping Manager and in the end he was supervisor at the renovation.

I had to get used to American labour circumstances and I am still stunned by the culture and mentality. The long working days, the minimum number of breaks and vacation days are so totally different from the situation in The Netherlands. Your work is personally rewarded according to dedication and achievement.

After we were satisfied with Disney World, the hurricanes and the humid heat we left for Denver Colorado in our Hyundai with Spijker, our dog, on my lap. A 28-hour trip by car!

Countdown for the Opening

In Denver we assisted with the opening of the new 1100-room Hyatt Hotel. What a great project! We are very proud to have taken part in this. We felt it a great honour to be invited as managers.

During the last few weeks prior to the grand opening on December 20 I was on night duty as operator all on my own.

Very often I got as few as five phone-calls: someone who had dialled the wrong number, two from John, a drunk and two colleagues who reported ill! During these hours the plan arose to create a countdown with the lights in the hotel-rooms so that you could see it in the dark on the sides of the building. Thus the Hyatt Hotel gave the Denver Skyline a very prominent look. John and I worked out the whole plan to the very smallest details and then we offered it to our managing director. He found it marvellous!

For five days on end we went through the corridors and into the rooms every afternoon to close or open the curtains and to switch the lights in the hotel-rooms on or off. This was a regular work-out in a 37-story hotel!

Next I went outside into the snow and the cold, armed with my cell-phone and then I told John, who was in the hotel, which rooms we had forgotten. The whole process took about three hours a day as we did two sides of the building.

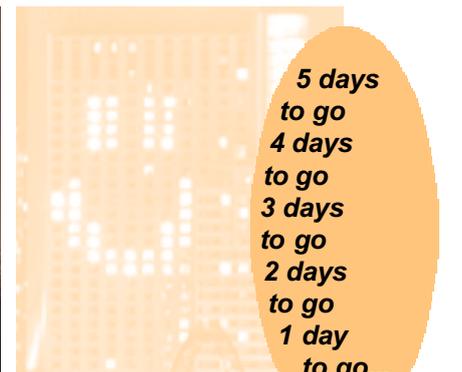
The Hyatt Bright Idea Award

Very soon the media discovered our presentation and news spread like wildfire though the city, in the papers and on television. Journalists came to the hotel and I did the interviews. That was great fun!

I received "The Hyatt Bright Idea Award" from the Hyatt organisation while the whole staff gave an ovation. How proud I was! On the opening-day I suddenly received an e-mail in which the managing director asked me to create something for that night.

John and I went brainstorming for a couple of hours and thought up a Smiley Face, which would be a splendid background for the spectacular firework that evening.

Now it is a few months later. The hotel and the staff are marvellous. John is working here as Front Desk Manager now and I am PBX Manager (Telephone and Communication).



5 days to go
4 days to go
3 days to go
2 days to go
1 day to go...



Denver is beautiful. We enjoy nature and culture, which we missed so much in Orlando. And we gladly put up with the cold.

COME TO THE REUNION IN 2007

Harry Somsen and his puppet theatre

adapted by Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]

As a sound engineer of performers such as Metallica, ZZ Top and The Rolling Stones, Harry Evert Somsen [1193] travelled all over the world. Harry has been around quite a lot and uses his puppet theatre as a medium to tell us about his experiences. According to Harry Somsen the whole world is a puppet theatre.

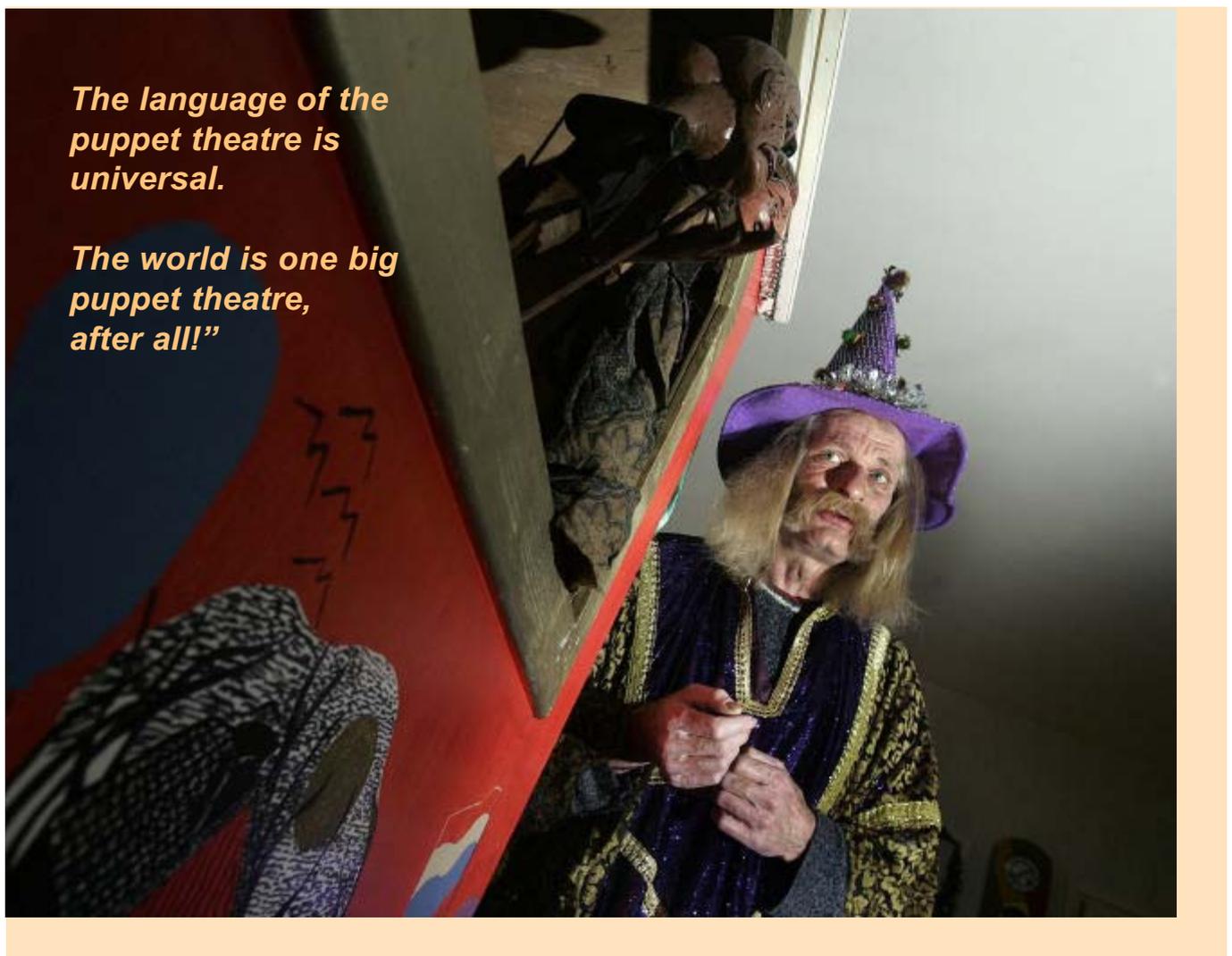
“Harry the Joker” was born in a puppet theatre. His father is Klaas Jansen, his mother is called Drika * He has got a famous puppet theatre brother, named after his father: Jan Klaassen. He has also got three sisters: K3, who owe their names to

their mother. He has travelled all over the world with his puppet theatre. “Harry the Joker” started growing and growing. Now he is over 2 metres and has grown out of the puppet theatre, he has been around quite a lot and loves telling about it.

“My stories are different from those of Andersen, more furious than those of Grimm”

During his show Harry Somsen is standing next to his theatre and in this position he tells us his story.

“When you work with rock musicians, you experience quite a lot. People always want me to tell them stories about rockers. Yet I don’t just tell them stories. I have not been asked to join famous rock bands on their tours just for no reason at all. When I started my puppet theatre shows I had to ask permission to use the names of the performers. Those stories run like a connecting thread though my work.



“Harry The Joker”, in full regalia next to his puppet theatre, is telling his beautiful stories for kids and grown-ups
(photo Theo Kock)

About eighty percent of the stories are true and the other twenty are my own invention."

Harry Somsen combines his experiences with real fairy-tales. "My stories are different from the fairy-tales of Andersen and more furious than those of Grimm", he relates. "In my own life I have seen quite a lot of performers go to pieces because of drug-abuse. Therefore I am a convinced opponent of whatever drug. In my show I tell the story of Punch and Judy but then I call them Weed and Pot. This story has no happy end, though."

Back to the Achterhoek

At the moment Harry still lives in Belgium. He was born in Dinxperlo in 1957 and will return to the Achterhoek before long.

Until January he had performances in Belgium where he is a famous performer. Last summer he made a tour along the Flemish coast and along festivals. Raymond van Groenewoud was a regular visitor of his shows.

"What he liked best of my shows was that there is not a single show that is the same. I adjust my stories to the audience. For grown-ups there is a different show than when there many children in the audience. And the audience is always different, after all. I let myself be guided by the response of the audience and use this in my stories."

Harry got an offer to perform in a regular theatre but he declined. "I enjoy my performances best of all when I am in the midst of my audience. Moreover, you cannot smoke a fag or drink a beer on the stage of a theatre."

By now Harry has performed for a great variety of audiences, from business executives to festival goers.

"The whole world is a puppet theatre"

Quite recently he was asked by Pax Christie to make a religious performance for children.

"I told the children that 'Harry the Joker' is not a religious man but that he is certainly able to tell a religious story.

I then told them about the piglet that had received a curly tail from God. All the children liked it very much. After the show a lady beckoned me to stay where I was. Then it became clear that there were 50 Polish children in the audience. The lady translated my show into Polish. The language of the puppet theatre is universal. The world is one big puppet theatre, after all!"

Source: Article by Ingeborg van den Heuvel in *De Gelderlander*, 17 September 2005. Borrowed with permission and slightly adapted by the editor of *Somsen Horizon*.

* Harry is a real "Joker", if you want to know more about him, his parents, brothers and sister, consult our family book on page 203.



Marieke Edwards, a golden Somsen daughter in the USA

by Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]

When we started the Somsen Foundation, 9 years ago now, we needed a base in the United States of course. John Howard Somsen [2353] was a genealogical and website support, but we also needed a reliable address for the donations of our American Somsens and a focal point for them.

Because of this Theo Somsen [227] made contact with Marieke [725] and Mike Edwards [3159] from Olympia WA during our first great Somsen reunion in 1997. "They were walking around there so enthusiastically. I made their acquaintance after having been introduced, had a nice conversation and that settled the matter. Marieke was prepared to go for the job", Theo remarks.

In the last 17 Somsen Horizon editions we find at the bottom of page 2: Bank Affairs USA, Marieke's name, address and other necessary details. And bank affairs are the specialty in the Edwards family.

For well over 8 years Marieke Edwards-Jager Gerlings has taken care of the donations from the USA and also of the changes of addresses she receives. She very correctly forwards these, together with the money, to the Somsen Foundation. She is an indispensable 'golden' link for us. We are very pleased with her! Her forwardings are very often accompanied by some personal notes, which are very nice to read. In her seasons greetings she wrote: "We hope to begin the New Year in the dunes at the beach. With a glass of champagne we will toast on 2006 while listening to the waves of the ocean rolling towards us, only a few metres from us." But the weather was too bad, she wrote a little later and they had to take refuge to a warmer place. Maybe this may come true at the beginning of 2007! We might learn about this at a later stage. Only recently she sent us three American postage stamps with the cute faces of her three grandchildren.



At our request Marieke tells about her life, her husband, children and grandchildren.

Double nationality

For the past ten years it has been my pleasure to be the Somsen Foundation's Bankaffairs USA representative. It has been especially meaningful given the fact I was born in Holland, I am still a Dutch citizen and know the importance of documenting family histories for the generations to come.

My life's journey has spanned two continents.

It began as a child of World War II, the first daughter of Jacobus Simon Adrianus Jager Gerlings [718] and Jeannette Marianne Somsen [717]. My parents were instrumental in

making sure we were safe and well taken care of in difficult times and living conditions as the war raged around us. Before the end of the war little sister Anneke Wilhelmina [726] was born followed by brother Jacobus Simon Adrianus Jager Gerlings, Jr. [727] in 1946.

Having lost everything during the war, my parents decided to immigrate to the USA for a new start and promise of a brighter future. Thus on May 1, 1947, my sixth birthday, our family started on its adventure to a new life in America with little more than the clothes on our backs. Not an easy task with 3 small children ranging from 10 months to 6 years old. Baby Jaap made the long journey in a wicker basket with a hinged lid that had an open "window".

The flight to America was one of the first commercial trans-Atlantic routes KLM airlines offered and entailed several stops for refuelling including Ireland, Greenland and Newfoundland before landing in Washington, DC. Much different than the 9 1/2 hour flight from Seattle to Amsterdam today!

Life in America was challenging at first with having to learn to speak a new language, customs and most of all being separated from our beloved grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends. Little did we know we actually had many American Somsen "cousins". We weren't alone after all.

The ensuing years found us enjoying the best of two worlds much to the envy of our schoolmates.

Sinter-klaas was able to find us each Dec. 5th as well as Santa Claus on the 24th of December. Mother and Dad made sure the traditions and celebrations we were so fond of in Holland continued on in America and even today our children and grandchildren look forward to the same.

In May of 1955 we had the first of several visits from our "Opa", Willem Frederik Somsen [656]. How nice it was to be with our grandfather who had travelled alone from a far away land just to see us and get reacquainted with his grandchildren. Opa's son, my uncle Arthur Somsen [946] and wife Aly [947] visit yearly from Borger and have a home here in Boston Harbor, near Olympia, WA. Very often another uncle Jan Somsen [719] from Nijmegen surprises me with a phone call and brings me up to date on family happenings.

Mike and Marieke

On a family camping trip August of 1959 to Edwards Resort at Lake Lawrence in Yelm, WA. I met my husband-to-be, Michael (Mike) Dwain Edwards [3159] and thus a new chapter in my life began. One filled with travel accompanying Mike on banking related trips around the United States and with raising three amazing sons. Duane Stephen [4876], Derek Jager [4875] and Ty Adrian-Lee [4876] are now grown with families of their own and live in the Seattle area. Duane and Derek recently sold an internet company they started ten years ago to VeriSign (see [www. CallVision.com](http://www.CallVision.com)). Ty, who will marry Taryn Coe August 5, 2006, works in Seattle for Parisian advertising agency Publicis as an editor in their Broadcast Production Department after several years doing television production work in Hollywood, CA. including working for Bill Nye, "the science guy".

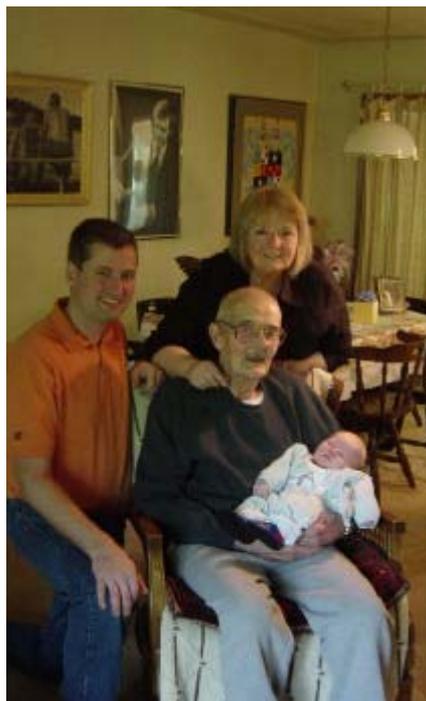
Duane and wife Erin [4958] presented us with a granddaughter Paige Ashley [4959] in July of 2002 and with grandson Clay Adrian [5477] in August of 2005. Derek and Megin's



Mike and Marieke

[4957] baby boy Jake Flaherty Edwards [5440] was born in April of 2005. Happiness is being a grandparent. They are our future and legacy. Care will be taken to let them know of their Somsen and Jager Gerlings roots in Holland.

The past few years have found me helping take care of our 90 year old father for it is now our turn to give in return the love, care and protection he bestowed upon us in war torn Holland and here in America. Besides family, his greatest pleasure has been to join Mike and I weekends at our vacation house in



4 generations

l-r: Duane, Jacobus, Marieke and Clay

Grayland, WA., not far from the dunes along the Pacific Ocean. After breaking a hip in Sept. it is my sincere hope Dad will once again be able to join us "at the beach".

Her memory

Two years before Theo contacted me about the Somsen Foundation and Somsen Reunion in Aalten in 1997, my beloved mother passed away. Having been homesick for Holland for so many years she would have been surprised and happy to hear about all of the Somsen relatives here in America. It is in her memory that I gladly give my time and efforts to the Foundation. The Aalten Reunion and Baldwin Reunion were definitely highlights in our lives. It was nice to meet and see the faces of Somsen Foundation supporters whose donations year after year keep the important work of the Foundation going.

My family and I look forward to seeing you at the third world-wide Reunion in August of 2007.

Note by the editor:

Just before this volume was printed we received the sad news that Marieke's father had died on April 12, 2006. How sad for his relatives and what a pity he cannot enjoy the story about Marieke anymore.



Jake Gerlings

Patrick Somsen wants to reach the platform in cross-country cycling

adapted by Gree van Daatselaar-Somsen [53]

32-year-old Patrick Somsen [1984], born in Dinxperlo and the owner of a tiling-business in Aalten, will appear at the start on a national level in a race for A-amateurs cross-country cycling this season (2005-2006). He feels quite strong. So strong that he wants to go for one of the first three places at the regional championships in his place of residence Aalten.

Patrick goes for it

This is the first time that cycling club *De Peddelaars* from Aalten organises regional championships. Therefore the men of the club have to join of course. There are no top class racing cyclists in *De Peddelaars*, but there are three racing cyclists who appear at the start of the A-amateurs. They are ex-national champion road cycling Marco Schenk, Rik Harbers and **Patrick Somsen**.

For Marco Schenk the title fight in Aalten is a piece of cake. "After the road cycling season I have trained until this race. Cross-country cycling is not my hobby, though", Schenk says laughing. "But of course I have to join now." But he rather leaves cross-country cycling to specialists like Rik Harbers en Patrick Somsen. Everybody seems to focus on Patrick Somsen on that Saturday for he is in really good shape. Only very recently he appeared at the start in the Night of Woerden, a national cross-country cycling race in the dark, where the whole national top was present. He finished 15th!

"I am very satisfied with that. In these national races the speed is much higher than in the races I am used to: the regional cross-country cycling races in the east of the country."

"I go for that platform"

"I hope I will grow more at this level", Patrick says. He does not know yet who his competitors will be in the regional championships that Saturday, but time will show. "I think there are two men who are stronger than me, anyway. But Saturday will be the moment of truth. I go for a place on the platform."

The regional championships cross-country cycling for the East and the North of The Netherlands (so from

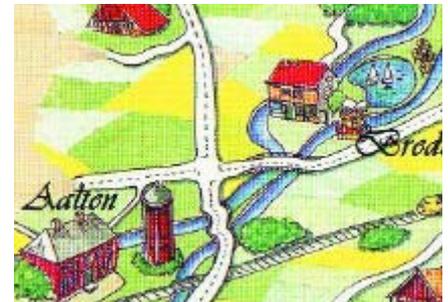
Groningen to Aalten), are held at the track Ringkampsbulten at the Huis-kermatedijk in Aalten. The young riders and newcomers start their contest at 13.00 and an hour later they are followed by the juniors. At 15.00 the race of the elite racers starts - they have a race that lasts an hour. Every race counts for the list of rankings of the league.

Postscript by the editor:

An inquiry by telephone brought us the happy news that Patrick Somsen finished **second** so he could really climb on the platform.

A second place of the East of the Netherlands! Congratulations! We are bound to hear more about him.

Source: *De Gelderlander*, 28 October 2005. Borrowed with permission and slightly adapted by the editor of *Somsen Horizon*.



I-r: Rik Harbers, Marco Schenk and Patrick Somsen
(photo Theo Kock)

Ellen Somsen gets life and work in balance

by Ellen Johanna Somsen [728]

Everybody seems to be busy nowadays. Ellen helps people to find more balance in their lives.

The way she does this is quite unique. Not only does she talk with people, but she also takes them out into the open to work out!

Stress

Many people have stress-connected problems. Prolonged stress can lead to a variety of complaints. Not only in the mental field but emotional and physical problems may also occur. For instance, it may lead to instability or irascibility and even depression. Or it may cause headaches, backaches, intestinal complaints and palpitations

People suffering from overstrain or burn-out often get help from a psychologist. Treatment concentrates on talking: the brain must be activated. Patients are told to make lists at home: what gives you energy and what takes energy? In other words: what are energy boosters and what are energy burners?

But these people have so much on their minds already!

My approach is different. First I take them to the woods, out into the open. What is it like to be out in the countryside, to feel the wind, the sun or the rain? How far are we into the season, have the leaves started falling yet or have the first buds only just appeared?

And how feels the earth? How can we contact again and literally learn to ground ourselves?

If that is what people want I give them outdoor exercise to get back into shape, to recharge their oxygen- and energy levels. After all, physical exercise not only takes energy, it also produces energy.

Vitality line

Naturally, I also talk with these peo-



Ellen Somsen

ple. How is it that this has happened to you? How can you prevent this in future? How do you set yourself limits? Can you say no? How are you going to cope with stressful situations in future? How do you set targets and priorities? And what are the things that really matter to you? How can you achieve these objectives? I usually start off by giving information, about what can happen to you if you do not change your way of life. This is often quite an eye-opener, an incentive to really do something about it. After that I concentrate on getting back into shape and on re-learning how to relax. What comes into the picture then is what I call the vitality line, and then it is quality that matters. These are the sustaining elements, what life is all about. The effect of my coaching is aimed at making people relax again, so that they have a firm footing in life and get more enjoyment out of the things they do.

Sport helps

I myself am keen on running. It is my experience that sport helps to keep fit. Running not only keeps you in good shape but it also makes the mind relax. When something is bothering me and I have been running for an hour, I can give it its proper place. It is not without reason that so many people take up running nowadays.

Quite a few managers, too, take up running as a means to unwind, to get rid of their everyday stress. At present running is even used as a therapy for those who suffer from depressions.

I also use sport in my coaching. Through sport you get to know yourself. Every individual has to face certain challenges, whether at work or in their daily lives. For people suffering from burn-out, for instance, this could be the setting of realistic targets and limits and listening to one's body signs. When people are confronted with such challenges it also shows in the way they practise their sports. For instance, they tend to overreach themselves. They do not stick to the recommended schedules, with the result that they sustain injuries. And even then they sometimes press on, thinking that all will be well in the end. And so they run the risk of persistent injury. These experiences are also used by me in my coaching, which thus leads to interaction of experiences. For, as I see it, work is all about standards and values, about attitudes, about limits, ups and downs, about ability and inability and about tactics. All these challenges also figure largely in sport.

Customized programmes

I coach people individually or in groups. For companies with employees who experience stress I make customized programmes. Next I discuss with the company in question what it is they want me to do: individual coaching, a group or perhaps a combination of individual- and group coaching? How much attention are they prepared to pay to physical exercise? Do they actually want me to work out with them? Or do they want them to be introduced to different sports? Think of mountain biking, Nordic walking, swimming, walking/running, you name it, so that they can go and draw up their own personal fitness plan. All options are possible.

Read further on page 14

Of course, not everybody wants to take up running. There is no need for that, I think, but I do try to make people take up some form of physical exercise. The most important thing is that they choose something that suits them, that affords them pleasure and satisfaction. Only then is there a chance that people will remain physically active also in the long run.

Many people join fitness clubs, very often not just for the fun of it but because they have to. They feel they must try and get into better shape or it is that they want to lose weight. And that is negative motivation. After four months they throw in the towel. That is why I keep trying to find an activity for them that suits them. And if the threshold is too high to join a hockey club, for example, I accompany them when they first go there.

I love doing this sort of work. I cannot think of anything more rewarding than to see how people who were once burned out are now quite fit again with a new zest for life. It gives me enormous satisfaction.

Want to know more? Do not hesitate to contact.

*Ellen Somsen, Nijmegen, owner
Connect P&O Advies
phone: +31 6 28 62 08 20,
website: www.connectadvies.nl*



Picture Puzzle from SH-16

To our question who the missing partygoers were in the picture in Somsen Horizon 17 no less than 4 people responded! We are very pleased with that and therefore we publish the picture again together with the names of the partygoers. The new names are printed in bold type. The four competitors will be rewarded. They will all receive the beautiful book with photographs that was recently published by our advisor Ben Somsen, entitled "Om Eibergen".

We thank:

'Aunt Zus' Gerritsen-Somsen (Dinxperlo)

Frits Alofs (Dinxperlo)

Gus Somsen (Hoogeveen)

Ariaan Rodenburg-Somsen (Maarn).



Partygoers 25th wedding anniversary in 1945
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, Frits Alofs, **Bernard Johan Somsen (1883-1952)**, Gerrit Kemink, Lisa Kemink-Schalhoff, Maria Johanna (Marie) Somsen-Meijnhardt (1906-1990), unknown., **Dhr. Bruins**, Gerd Alofs, **Hans Bruins**, 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), **Geziena Aleida Bruins-Kemink**, Harmina Hendrika (Riek) Heinen-Rots (1904-1998), Sientje de Vries-**de Jong** (Amsterdam).

Camping weekend from 11-13 August 2006



We are about to organise our tenth *Somsen camping weekend* in IJzerlo. A jubilee year and therefore we expect, apart from the regular loyal visitors, some new faces. Have you never been there? Then it is time for you to join now. The atmosphere is always good and relaxed. There are no obligations but joining our traditional programme can be very nice. A visit to our lime tree and making the acquaintance of the new inhabitants of the *Japikshuis* is on the programme for Friday or Saturday.

The BBQ is, as always, on Saturday evening from about 7 p.m. The price is € 15 per person, just like last year. In return we offer you high-quality food en free drinks. We can go on as long as we like, but we always do the dishes together.



BBQ

Maybe we prepare some other activities, but these may just as well pop up spontaneously. This time we will not plan a complete programme beforehand. Making lovely cycling-tours through beautiful Achterhoek or crossing the German border may also contribute to a holiday-feeling.

Across the German border



We expect a large number of relatives again from far and near. If you want to join the BBQ please enter well in advance by phone or email:

Wim Somsen
Hoge Heurnseweg 8
7095 CJ De Heurne, The Netherlands
phone: +31 315 652 115
e-mail: somsen@uwnet.nl

A smithy in Hillegom

by Gus Somsen [97]

At the end of the 19th century three Somsen-brothers from Aalten left, one after the other, for the far west of the country to find work, fortune, misfortune, fortune again and even late happiness. Gus Somsen, a descendant of one of these brothers, is wondering whatever happened between the Van Driel and Somsen families over there in Hillegom. An intricate history, but extremely fascinating, which is so often the case in life!

A smithy as a starting-point

On Thursday, 31 January 1901, my grandfather Gezinus Somsen [19] and grandmother Geertrui van Driel [79] married in Hoofddorp in the municipality of Haarlemmermeer. He was a headmaster of a school in Bolnes and she was the daughter of a blacksmith in Hoofddorp. How did the two of them get to know each other? Bolnes and Hoofddorp are not so close to each other and, moreover, there are not so many points of contact between the teaching profession and the trade of a blacksmith. Yet a smithy played an important role in the marriage between Gezinus and Geertrui. That particular smithy was in Hillegom. Mainly because of some notes made by my aunt Grada Aleida Somsen [80] I can tell something about it now.

Hendrik Jan Somsen: saviour in the need

Around 1858 blacksmith Leendert Willem van Driel left the village of Gameren in the Bommelerwaard and went to the Haarlemmermeer, a new polder, which had only quite recently been reclaimed. He wanted to establish a smithy in the new land and settled in Nieuw Vennep with his wife Geertrui Vervoren and his children. Three of his sons, Peter Johannes, Govert Willem and Jan chose for the trade of their father. Peter started a smithy in Hillegom, Govert settled in Hoofddorp and Jan stayed in the smithy of his father in Nieuw Vennep.

Around 1883 Peter married Petronella (Pietje) Beukers from Zoeterwoude.



Gezinus (Gerrit) and Geertrui (Geertje) Somsen-van Driel when they were young

Their first child, a boy, lived only for a few years; their second son, Jan, was born in February 1886. Two years later, on March 23, 1888, Peter died and 25-year-old widow Pietje van Driel-Beukers had to find a way to make a living for herself and her little son. The best solution was to continue the smithy in Hillegom. The Van Driel family could not supply the necessary manpower, though. Peter's brother Govert ran a smithy of his own in Hoofddorp and had a busy family, moreover. His brother Jan continued the business in Nieuw Vennep of his parents who were still alive. The only possibility was to attract an outsider and that was young blacksmith **Hendrik Jan Somsen** [17]. He came from Aalten where his father, Derk Jan Somsen [10], had a smithy.

Arend Jan Somsen: the new saviour in the need

Blacksmith Derk Jan Somsen and his wife Grada Aleida te Brake [14] had a large family: one daughter, the eldest child, and six sons. When Peter van Driel died the three eldest sons, Frederik Hendrik [16], Hendrik Jan [17] and **Arend Jan** [18] were already working as blacksmiths. Just before Peter van Driel died Frederik had married. He stayed in the smithy in Aalten. But Hendrik was still a bachelor and he left for Hillegom to continue the smithy of Peter van Driel when he was 26 years old.

In Hillegom Hendrik found both work and happiness. In the summer of 1889 he married the widow Pietje van Driel-Beukers. They got two children. The eldest child, Dirk Jan [77], only lived for three months. The second child, a daughter, Hendrika Johanna (Rika) [78], was born in April 1891.

Unfortunately Hendrik has never seen his daughter for he died on March 7, 1891. Then Pietje Somsen-Beukers [76] was a widow for the second time at the age of 27. And within three years she was faced with the same problem: how to continue the smithy?

This could be realised with the arrival of Arend Jan Somsen [18], who was two years younger than his brother Hendrik. Again there was a Somsen blacksmith in Hillegom. Jan, as he was called, was 27 at the time and was to stay in Hillegom for the rest of his life.

Gezinus Somsen also gets his share

The fourth son of the Aalten blacksmith Derk Jan Somsen, **Gezinus** [19], who was born in 1868 and who was called **Gerrit**, chose a different profession. He was trained to be a teacher and got his certificate in 1886. After having worked in Aalten for a number of years he moved westwards and became a teacher in Charlois and IJsselmonde. That was too far away from his parental home in Aalten to travel there for a weekend.

Hillegom was much closer and within easy reach both by bike and by train.

The sad situation of his sister-in-law Pietje and her two young children may also have stimulated his regular visits there. Moreover his elder brother Jan worked there. Gerrit also met the brothers and sisters-in-law of Peter van Driel there who kept visiting Pietje. One of them, Govert Willem van Driel, had a large family. His eldest daughter, **Geertrui**, was born in 1877. Geertje, as she was called, was 13 when Hendrik

Somsen died. She is likely to have met Gerrit at Hendrik's funeral; Gerrit was 22 then. At that time the disparity in age was considerably large. But in the course of time this will disappear. After Gerrit's appointment as headmaster of the denominational school in Bolnes Geertje and Gerrit agreed to start a relationship. After a short engagement they married in January 1901 in the municipality of Haarlemmermeer.

Soon afterwards they moved into the official residence next to the school

in Bolnes. Gerrit was 32 and Geertje 23. The old Dutch saying: "*One wedding provokes another one*" may come true in various ways but in this case it was a very special one.

Peter van Driel's death led to the wedding of Hendrik Somsen and after his death to the permanent presence of a Somsen in the smithy in Hillegom and because of this Gerrit and Geertje got to know each other, which finally led to their wedding.

Read further on page 18



Gerrit Somsen (in the middle with pipe) and Geertje van Driel (next to the girl with the bike) in front of the smithy of Geertje's father in Hoofddorp

Arend Jan Somsen's retarded happiness

What happened to the smithy in Hillegom? **Jan Somsen** continued the business. Pietje Somsen-Beukers did the housekeeping and took care of her two children. Her son Jan van Driel did not stay in Hillegom very long. He emigrated to America in 1907 and married there with Christina Caldwell in 1910 and settled with his family in Canada in 1917. Pietje's daughter Rika Somsen stayed in her parental home. Jan also lived there: over the smithy. When her mother and uncle grew older Rika gradually took over the household duties and in the end she took complete care of the two of them.

The Van Driel and Somsen families always kept in touch with (aunt) Pietje and her children and with (uncle) Jan. My second cousin let

van Driel, born in 1927, remembers that (aunt) Pietje with Rika and (uncle) Jan stayed with her parents in Hoofddorp. Her father, Peter Johannes van Driel, Govert Willem's son, was born in 1890 and named after his uncle from Hillegom, who had died in 1888. And my aunt Gé van Winkelhof-Somsen [88], the youngest daughter of Gerrit en Geertje, who was born in 1918, stayed in Hillegom several times together with her mother. I met Aunt Pietje, Uncle Jan and Rika in 1940 when my father visited his aunt, uncle and cousin. He went there on his bike and was seated on the back. By that time Uncle Jan did not work anymore and they did not live over the smithy anymore. Three years later Aunt Pietje died in Hillegom, aged 80. Rika and Uncle Jan stayed together in Hillegom. When Uncle Jan's health declined there was a

serious threat that Rika would be left without resources after his death. At that time there was no old age pension, so they got married on October 11, 1950. Two years later Uncle Jan died. He lived to be nearly 88.

Especially my Aunt Grada, who I mentioned before, visited Rika quite regularly, also in her later years in a nursing home. Rika Somsen died in 1975.

**REGISTER FOR THE
REUNION!
17-19 AUGUSTUS 2007**

In dankbare herinnering aan

Johanna Geertruida van Eerden-Bussink

* 15 december 1921 † 29 januari 2006

Mama, oma, opoe

Mama, oma, geboren en getogen op de boerderij in IJzerlo 49. In 1943 getrouwd met Hendrik van Eerden.

Het mooiste wat er volgens haar was, was het biggen 'vangen', ze offerde er menig uurtje nachtrust voor op om al het nieuwe leven te verzorgen.

Na het overlijden van papa, opa in 1979, vervuilden zij en broer Jan de boerderij met het huisje van Wim en Ursula. Toen ome Jan in 1984 overleed bleef ze alleen achter in het zomerhuisje. Daar heeft ze gewoond totdat ze op 14 januari jl opgenomen werd in het SKB ziekenhuis, waar ze op 29 januari na diverse tegenslagen is overleden.

Mama, oma vond het fijn als je kwam, maar legde geen verplichtingen op, ze wilde niemand tot last zijn. Ze nam zelf met weinig genoegen, maar gaf graag.

Ze wilde graag op haarzelf blijven wonen aan de Klokkemakersweg en dat heeft tot het laatst zo mogen zijn.

Als je mama polste over een kamer in Beth San, was het 'Och, 't is hier wal klein, maor ik redde mi' nog good'.

Mama, oma leefde voor kinderen en kleinkinderen, maar zeker voor de achterkleinkinderen, waar ze zoals ze vaak zei 'echt drieste' op was.

Ook vroeg ze dikwijls 'legt owwe hoondere nog?', want elke dag een paar eitjes was voor haar het heerlijkste dat er was. Mama, oma was enorm precies op haar huisje, kleding en tuin. Ook maar aan de minste rommel had ze een bloedhekel, er werd dan ook, toen ze nog goed kon, veel "gepotst", geveegd en geharkt.

Op zondag 29 januari om 7.40 uur is ze in bijzijn van de kinderen overleden.

Mama, oma, opoe je verdient een warm plekje in ons hart!

Voor uw belangstelling en medeleven zijn wij u zeer dankbaar.

Kinderen, klein- en achterkleinkinderen.

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

24-11-1980: Vanessa Cooney [5464] d.o. Stephen Duncan (Steve) Somsen [2459] and Doreen Cooney [5463]

30-04-2004: Payton Earl [5486] s.o. Brett Earl Somsen [3249] and Kelly Jeanne Holm [3562]

02-04-2005: Jake Flaherty [5440] s.o. Derek Jager Edwards [4875] and Megin Barbara Flaherty [4957]

14-04-2005: José Cunha [5439] s.o. Paul Hendrik Somsen [463] and Sandra Isabel Ramalho Da Cunha [1547]

24-04-2005: Joep [5479] s.o. Dirk Wilhelmus de Zwart [4918] and Noortje Iserief [2885]

23-08-2005: Clay Adrian [5477] s.o. Duane Stephen Edwards [4876] and Erin Kathleen Farrier [4958]



Joep



Clay Edwards with sister Paige

Married

29-08-2003: Guido Reijnen [5456] and Janine Petra Schoch [5457]

20-05-2005: Jan Somsen [1888] and Gezina Johanna Euphemia (Inge) Broekhuis [5478]

10-03-2006: Jan Dijksterhuis [5421] and Willemina Johanna (Jos) Somsen [1426]



Jan and Jos

Registered Partnership

09-02-2004: Gerardus Jan Roelof Willem (Gerard) Rietbergen [5436] and Alexandra Agatha Helena (Sandra) Somsen [258]

'Living-together' contract

01-05-2005: Maickel Somsen [2303] and Lotte van de Put [5460]

Deceased

01-11-1996: Geraldine C. Somsen [2472], 85, Baldwin, WI. USA

14-08-2003: Bonita Josephine (Bonnie) Bickler [2460], 48, Mukilteo, WA. USA

20-01-2004: Emily Marie (EmmaLee) Somsen [731], 96, Rancho Santa Fe, CA. USA

17-12-2005: Esther (Sue) Somsen-Ready [740], 92, Novato, CA. USA

27-12-2005: Hendrik Lambertus Klompenhouwer [3120], 68, Varsseveld

11-01-2006: Arend Jan Gierveld [1785], 73, Vleuten

29-01-2006: Johanna Geertruida (Anna) van Eerden-Bussink [370], 84, Winterswijk

03-03-2006: Willemina Johanna te Grotenhuis [1966], 85, Dinxperlo

12-04-2006: Jacobus Simon Adrianus Jager Gerlings [718], 90, Olympia, WA. USA



Anna van Eerden-Bussink
(see page 18)



Esther Somsen-Ready

CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATE



AWARDED TO
**HERMAN JAN
VEERBEEK**

SINCE 8 AUGUST 2005
LORD AND MASTER
OF THE
JAPIKSHUIS

AT
IJZERLO



WITH THIS CERTIFICATE WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE PERMISSION WHICH HIS FATHER
JOHANNES THEODORUS VEERBEEK († AUGUST 8, 2005) GRANTED US TO PLANT A LIME TREE ON HIS
PROPERTY
ON SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 1997.

THIS LIME TREE IS A MARK OF HONOUR TO THE FIRST SOMSENS,
WHO EMIGRATED FROM THE JAPIKSHUIS
TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

NEAR THE LIME TREE IS A PLAQUE WITH THE INSCRIPTION:

AALTJEN SOMSEN (1804-1877)
and
HENDRIK JAN SOMSEN (1801-1863)
ventured the Great Crossing from the Japikshuis on
16-8-1847 and 25-7-1851
to
Sheboygan - Wisconsin - USA

August 10, 1997
Planting of the lime tree
(Tilia cordata)
SOMSEN WORLD WIDE REUNION

WE APPOINT AS KEEPER OF THIS LIME TREE
HERMAN JAN VEERBEEK
HE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE, AS A GOOD FATHER BECOMES, OF THE LIME TREE AND HE WILL
ACCOMPANY IT TO ITS FULL GROWTH.

IJZERLO, APRIL 15, 2006

THE BOARD OF THE SOMSEN FOUNDATION,

JOHAN FERDI SOMSEN
CHAIRMAN