



Somsen horizon

Volume 13 – number 23 – May 2010

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

Yearly familymagazine



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Contents

page

Board, advisors, colophon, objective and contents	2
Preface	3
Pakkebier in Dale near Aalten sold	3
Johan Somsen hiked 490 km through the Netherlands	4
Looking for Dutch New York	4
Together 160 years old and still alive and kicking	7
Camping Weekend from August 14 - 15, 2010	7
Reunion Gezinus Somsen's grandchildren with partners	8
A European tour	9
Riding school The Achterhoek in IJzerlo celebrated its 45th anniversary	10
Website: www.somsen.org	11
The Violaar	12
A unique exposition of photographs and paintings	12
How an outsider looks at the Somsen-family	13
In Memoriam Geertrui Gezina Somsen	14
Engelbart Somsen no Sunday's child	15
Making the acquaintance of Jobim Zwarts	16
Liesbeth Somsen from Nijmegen: Member of the Order of Oranje Nassau	17
In Memoriam Patricia George - Somsen	18
In Memoriam Wanda Jean Somsen	18
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

Amsterdam canals

Preface

Somsen Horizon in full colour!

The issue of our family magazine that you are holding now is in full colour and it is a bit difficult to hide our pride. In it you will find a varied offer of articles and this time we are very pleased with the great number of contributions of so many enthusiastic family members. By necessity we even had to keep a number of articles for future publications of our Newsletter or Somsen Horizon. However, don't feel discouraged because of this and keep sending your contributions for our magazine for time and again we receive real gems that we simply have to publish.

This time we can offer you a view of the adventures of American Somsens who travelled in Europe; there is a marvellous history about the Dutch-American historic ties in which New Amsterdam, present-day New York, plays a central part.

Are you interested in music? The Somsens play their part in it and neither do they shrink back from exposing other artistic expressions. And it stands to reason that we do not leave our own family history undisturbed: this time you are going to learn about the adventures of a criminal Somsen from the 19th century and also about the peculiar destiny of an ancient Somsen farmhouse. In brief, all tastes have been catered for.

Since we have so much copy the editor even dared to force me to shorten my preface and therefore it only remains for me to wish you lots of reading-pleasure. With this special edition this is bound to happen.

On behalf of the board, Johan Somsen



Johan Somsen

Pakkebier in Dale near Aalten sold

by Harry Somsen [146]

In 2008 the previous Somsen residence, Pakkebier, got a new proprietor.

Many visitors to the reunion of 2007 cherish good memories of this farmhouse in the hamlet of Dale near Aalten. From this house Jan Hendrik Somsen [308] en Janna Hendrika Rauwerdink [309] left for Baldwin in America in July 1881 to build up a new existence there. For the last inhabitant of Pakkebier the house had become too big and too laborious and therefore she offered the house with annexes and over 6 acres of land for sale.

In 2007 we all had the opportunity to have a look and after that a nice picture was made of all the Somsens

on a nearby bridge. This picture can be found on the back of Somsen Horizon 20.

On September 30, 2008, André Vrieselaar [1287] became the official proprietor of the *old* farmhouse.

On October 7, 2008, he got a building license from the municipality of Aalten for a new farmhouse with buildings. André had already asked permission in June 2008 when he bought the house.

Early October a building contractor removed part of the wood and some shrubs. The pretty avenue with the beeches and some hedges remained intact. Then a demolition firm started pulling down all the sheds etc with the exception of the original farmhouse and the long back wagon shed under the row of old oak-trees.

The new dwelling was partly built on the site of the garages and partly on the farmland. On December 10, 2008, the concrete for the ground-floor was poured and after that they could start placing the frames and laying the bricks for the first floor. By the end of February 2008 they could make a start with the first floor. The whole construction took a bit longer because of the

long frost period in winter but in October 2009 the house was finished and they could move in.



The new house Pakkebier

As a result of the quietude around the house now that the builders have gone wildlife has returned. Deer, hare, rabbits, squirrels and pheasants approach the house quite closely and in the pond there are ducks, moorhens, coots and plovers etc., according to the proud proprietor André Vrieselaar.

About two acres of the land (at the back of the house) have been changed into a large pond and a swamp. The pond itself is about an acre.

Furthermore there is a meadow of 1.5 acres in front of the house for the cattle and a wood of about 1.5 acres on the side of the Pakkebierroad. The remaining land will be used for the yard. Here they will construct a garage, a shed for tools and one for wagons and a haystack. In April 2010 they started laying out the garden and the pavement near the new house.

André Vrieselaar is the son of Roelina Willemina Somsen [977] who was born at the farmstead *De Kleuver* in Aalten in 1929 as daughter of Roelof Somsen [965] and Willemina Winkelhorst [969]. The Vrieselaar family are already enjoying the house and the surroundings enormously and they will no doubt enjoy this splendid place in future years.

Johan Somsen hiked 490 km through the Netherlands

by Harry Somsen [146]

Four years ago Johan Somsen [1089] walked from The Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela (about 500 miles) and in 2007 from the South of Spain to the North (The Via de la Plata, about 650 miles) and so, according to Johan, it had become time to cross The Netherlands from North to South by foot for a change following the so-called Pieterpad-trail.

For it is strange of course that you have never explored your own country on foot and that is certainly recommendable. The most beautiful part was the Salland Hills. It is a part of our country which is hardly cut by roads or railroads Johan says when he is back home in Epe.



Johan Somsen

He covered the 320 miles in eighteen consecutive days starting with distances of 10 to 13 miles a day and building up to daily stages of 20 to 25 miles. The most attractive element in hiking is that you get totally free from everything. Free from

matter because you only have your small rucksack with a few belongings, but also mentally. There is space in your mind which enables you to think about so many things.

Overnight stays were no problem according to Johan. Sometimes there were relatives, friends or acquaintances living nearby, but there were also many other possibilities along the trail to spend the night. In most cases I made a telephone call as late as the afternoon and that was never a problem. There was always a bed.

When he arrived in Maastricht at the end of the Pieterpad trail on top of St. Pieter-mountain he already knew what hike he would make next: the Grande Randonnée, a 1500-mile hike from The Netherlands through the Swiss an French Alps to Nice and finally to his daughter in Monaco.

In May 2010 he is going to pack his rucksack again.

Looking for Dutch New York

by Sien Overduin-Somsen [400]

This is the title of a book that was published in the Hudson year, a historical journey in which the author Jaap Jacobs describes his trips through the metropolis New York, searching for Dutch heritage.

When the first Somsens crossed the pond halfway through the 19th century their first view on New York must have made a big impression, but Wisconsin was the goal of their journey and I'm afraid there wasn't much time for sightseeing during the necessary delay in the Big Apple.

Sometimes you hear people say: *New York belonged to us*, but what's the real story?

On September 11th 1609 it was the Englishman Henry Hudson, captain of the sailing ship *De Halve Maen* (The Half Moon) for the Dutch VOC trading company, who sailed up the river that was going to bear his name, upon which the city of New York is now situated. This event marks the beginning of the *New Holland* colony and the outpost New Amsterdam, also known as New York today. The colony may not have lasted for long, however, the era was important enough to leave a mark, so last September the 400-year-old Dutch-American relationship was celebrated with happenings, expositions, television shows and books.

One of these books is the aforementioned travelling book, in which the author describes his search for the Dutch part of New York. On the rear cover I read: *400 years ago the first Dutchmen arrived in the area now known as New York. After a while they founded New-Amsterdam, thus beginning what was going to be the most extraordinary city of the new world. Deep down under the skyscrapers of this modern metropolis the Dutch settlement is still there, invisible to everyone - except for historian and America connoisseur Jaap Jacobs. He lifts up the concrete veils and leads the reader - at home or on the way to New York - along the places where once it all started.*



The Dutch-American friendship monument in Battery Park

Manhattan Island has changed dramatically since

Hudson and his crew first laid eyes on it, but the place where he dropped anchor in 1609 can still be found. Jacobs' search therefore begins in Battery Park on the southern edge of Manhattan, facing the bay where Hudson first arrived. This was to be the debarkation place for newly arrived immigrants before Ellis Island took over in 1892.

There are several memorial stones to be found for the first immigrants from different countries. One monument symbolises the buying of *Manahatta* by Peter Minuit (one of the first governors), before *the ancient and unbroken friendship* between the Netherlands and America. The deal was done by means of trading goods to the vendors, the native Indians, worth about sixty guilders. We should explain here that the Indians' idea about selling land was somewhat different from the European view. The natives thought the payment the confirmation of an alliance, they only traded the use of the land. In their view soil could not be traded, nor could air or water and so they just kept on living there.

As we all know Hudson should never have come here at all, because America was not in the area the VOC had their monopoly in. Asia was, and Hudson's orders were to find a north-eastern passage, way north of Nova Zembla. But past the North Cape the crew got cold, and threatened with mutiny. So Hudson changed his course, crossed the Atlantic Ocean and then turned to the south to try and find a way through the North American continent towards Asia. He successively tried every inland stream until he got to the one that would later bear his name. He discovered that there was no passage, but he recognised that the bay and its islands offered a perfect natural harbour, and that there was a promising hinterland.

The gentlemen governors in Amsterdam saw an opportunity, so a new company (West Indian Company) was founded and they immediately started building an outpost and a fortress on the verge of Manhattan Island. Pretty soon the first groups of colonists and traders arrived in the New World.

New Amsterdam did not swiftly turn into a major trade centre, it wasn't given the time. In 1664 the director general of New Holland, Peter Stuyvesant, was forced to hand over the government to the English. Still the names of a number of buildings and streets in Manhattan and other parts of New York City remind of the Dutch years. For instance Wall Street, New York's financial heart, that was named after the defence line built in the 17th century during the First English (trade) war. It consisted of a ditch, that was dug by all the Manhattan citizens, and behind that a nine-foot-tall wooden fence-line.

Broadway (De Breede Wegh), the *gemene wagenweg*, *Harlem Street*: can you get any more Dutch? Piet Mondriaan, inspired by the jazz in the theatres along Broadway, created his Broadway Boogie-Woogie. This painting can be seen in the Museum of Modern Art. Broadway may be very wide, not because it was plan-

ned to be, but because there was a creek of East River. Broadway runs all the way to the top of Manhattan.

In the Dutch time most of the island was rural country, slowly the buildings spread up North, until early in the 20th century the whole island was covered.

Maiden Lane is another reminder of the Dutch period: the *Maegdepaetje* reminds of a small stream of water where the Dutch colonists wives presumably did their laundry. The extension of Maiden Lane is called Cortlandt Street, named after the family Van Cortlandt from Wijk bij Duurstede, who owned land there. And so the book goes on, with recognisable names of streets, places and so on. Not everything can be traced down; the growth of the city has eradicated a lot. For instance, where is the location of Fort Amsterdam, the physical symbol of power of the WIC? It was demolished by the end of the 18th century, once situated in the environment of today's Custom House. Today this is used as the National Museum of the American Indian. The information signs near the entrance tell little about the Dutch interaction with the native Indians, nothing to be proud of...



Memorial for the building of the defence-line

More information can be found on a plaque in the hall of the Customhouse, showing this was the site of the former Fort Amsterdam and that within the fortress was the first church of Manhattan. In fact this is the place where the Dutch founded New Amsterdam, where treaties with the Indians were made; beaver skins were traded, but also the place from where troops were sent to fight the Indians.

The very same place was chosen to build a museum devoted to the Indian culture, centuries later. The plaque was put in place by members of the Holland Society of New York, a society of descendants of the colonists of New Holland who, like the Somsen foundation, publish a magazine, called *De Halve Maen*. This quarterly magazine contains birth- and obituary-notices and - distinguishing itself from Somsen Horizon - lots of historical observations. The magazine has developed over the last decades to become the main source for the early history of Dutchmen in the States. The Holland Society has an Annual Dinner in April (just like our annual barbecue in IJzerlo) and an Annual Banquet (black tie) in November (we don't do that yet).



The
library of the Holland Society

In the travel guide the author tells about his visits to and searches for the past in museums, churches - namely the (first) Dutch Reformed Churches - about his meetings with descendants of immigrants, and about his quests on graveyards looking for names of Dutch families on old tombstones, like the families Van Rensselaer, Van Buren, Schermerhorn, Den Besten, Vanderpoel and many others.

The Museum of the City of New York. (MCNY) is a must, showing objects from rooms of the American-Dutch period (alas lots of items in depot). The first part of the Trade Gallery of this museum on the first floor is dedicated to New-Holland showing a model of the *Halve Maen* and a diorama of the deck of the ship where crew members and Indians meet. For those who are interested in old documents: there's the title deed for the Company's brewery from 1651 by Peter Stuyvesant, which not only contains a house and barn,



Statue in
Stuyvesant Square

but also a haystack, grounds, six cows, two horses and two young negroes.

By the way: those who wish to know more about Stuyvesant, the son of a preacherman from Friesland (Netherlands), who was director-general of New Holland in troubled times, can visit St. Mark's-In-the-Bowery in the East Village, where he was buried. In and near the church several memorials for Stuyvesant were made. The church is not seventeenth century, but the surroundings

are; this is where the chapel of Stuyvesant's Brewery was.

When you've had enough of all these museums and memorials and you want to get out of the frenzy of the big city you can always visit Central Park, to get away from all these historical places. Or can you? In the North-eastern corner of the park there's a small pond, at least compared to the lakes elsewhere in the park, called Harlem Meer.

Quote: *Because of the Dutch village that was here in the seventeenth century, the Dutch word **meer** was used instead of **lake** or **basin**, continued.*

One year after the Dutch Haarlemmermeer was reclaimed in 1853 and rechristened Haarlemmermeer-polder, New York City decided to create Harlem Meer. Unquote. Additional information like this makes the use of this travel guide worthwhile. It's not just a list of facts, names and sights; it gives a direct link to the history of our own humble country as well.

Let's go back to New York City. The island Manhattan is just one of the five boroughs NY is divided in, but it's the best known one. The Bronx, Staten Island and Brooklyn on Long Island are also mentioned in the book and they're more than worth visiting too. All three of them remind of the Dutch era. Brooklyn was named after the village Breuckelen, a little village across East River opposite New Amsterdam where very early Dutch colonists settled. Breuckelen, together with Amersfoort, 't Vlacke Bosch or Midwout, Boswijck, 's Gravesande and New Utrecht merged into Brooklyn, the third largest city of the United States, nevertheless swallowed by New York City by the end of the 19th century.

Mentioning any more facts relating to the Dutch history of Brooklyn would take up too much of this issue, and the same goes for the Bronx and Staten Island. For those Somsens keen on travelling and interested in history we advise you to pick up this travel guide and retrace the footsteps of Jaap Jacobs: *LOOKING FOR THE DUTCH NEW YORK* subtitled *a historic travel book* (publisher Boom-Amsterdam ISBN 978 90 8506 705 4).



Jaap Jacobs

For the sake of completeness: Jaap Jacobs is our son-in-law, so he is distantly related to the Somsen family. He is a historian specialised in Dutch and American history.

Reminder Donation 2010

**Have you already paid your yearly dues?
The treasurer is waiting for the last
twenty payments.**

Will you please take care of it.

Thanks very much indeed.

Together 160 years old and still alive and kicking

by Johan Somsen [1089]

On December 31, 2009, Jan van Daatselaar [679] celebrated his 80th birthday and just shortly afterwards his wife, Gree van Daatselaar - Somsen [53], fell to the honour of reaching this same milestone. Together they count the respectable number of 160 years of life and to our great pleasure they enjoy good health. Jan does not even show his first grey hairs!

As early as the period of the preparations for the first worldwide Somsen reunion in 1997 Jan and Gree registered as host-family for American Somsens and at one of the last days of that reunion they came to us and enthusiastically announced that Gree would like to write a report on that great reunion. With that we made a contact that has lasted up to the present day.

They have done more than their bit for our family foundation. Already at the birth of our foundation Gree was present and she became our first secretary, an office she held until 2003. But together with her husband Jan they were in tighter spots: they took care of the publication of two editions of our family magazine, Somsen Horizon, every year. In a period that we did not yet contract out the lay-out to a third party. They did it all by themselves. Twice a year there were times of great activity in their home at the Esstraat in Lichtenvoorde and always there was stress if the deadlines would be reached again.

When in 2003 they both wanted to slow down a bit they left the editorship and the secretariat as well to others, but Gree could not say good-bye to the board and stayed on as a member which only contributed to greater companionship. In 2005 there was a vacancy for a new treasurer and then Jan stepped forward as a ministering angel. In this way he made history for he was to become the first Somsen from the cold side on the board. However, he managed to hold his ground in an admirable way in the company of Somsens only and that I saying quite a lot.



Gree, Dick and Jan together 240 years old

In 2007 Gree had to decide to slow down again and left the board but to our great joy Jan was prepared to stay on as treasurer. Fortunately we have not lost sight of them because of this and we regularly meet these two amiable people of the first hours of our family foundation and I entertain hopes that we may enjoy their company many a time and of course I will not omit to express my heartfelt congratulations from this place.

De Heer schonk ons heden zeer
voorspoedig een lief Dochtertje en Zusje

GRADA ALEIDA JOHANNA

Zijn Naam zij geprezen.

D.J. Somsen
A.G. Somsen - Stronks
Doesburg, 5 februari 1930

Camping Weekend from August 14 - 15, 2010

This is already the 13th time that we organise the Somsen Camping Weekend in IJzerlo. There is the traditional visit to our lime-tree at the Japikshuis on our programme on Saturday.



The barbecue, always in a relaxed atmosphere, is on Saturday evening from about 7.15 p.m. The contribution is € 17,50 per person. For this you will get delicious food and free drinks. After that we clean up and do the dishes together. And maybe you want to organise your own agenda without any other obligations. **You are very welcome to that too.**

Reserve these dates, we expect quite a few family members again from far and near.

If you want to join the barbecue, please register before August 1 at Wim Somsen by phone or email.

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Reunion Gezinus Somsen's grandchildren with partners

by Dikky Somsen-Lenselink [133]

On November 7, 2009, there was a reunion of Gezinus (Gerrit) Somsen's [19] and Geertrui (Geertje) van Driel's [79] grandchildren and their partners in the middle of the woods near Hilversum.

We, Dick [130] and Dikky [133] Somsen-Lenselink had also been invited to this party. Then Dick could tell something about the Somsen genealogy and the Somsen Foundation.



A link in a chain

In September we received an email from the organising committee, Martien van der Burg [113] and Dik de Jongh [101], with the request to make a link. A link like in a chain and you had to make it from a sheet of paper (A4). On it you were supposed to write something about yourself, e.g. your education, job, family, curriculum vitae and you were asked to mail it together with a picture. After sending this to the organising committee all the links were sent to all the participants so that everybody was informed about approximately 50 people who would be present. A very good idea. In Hilversum all the links together with the pictures were hung on the wall like a chain and making the acquaintance with our second cousins was a piece of cake. Right from the start the atmosphere was perfect.

After coffee and cakes the day was opened by Martien van der Burg who reminded us of the decease of Aunt Gé van Winkelhof-Somsen [88] in Middelburg on August 23, 2009. Dik de Jongh told us about the day's programme and in his speech he certainly did not forget to stress the need to tidy up the hall at the end of the day. Both speakers were given a big hand for their commitment and were decorated by Gus Somsen [97] on behalf of all the people present. They were given an *order of knighthood* which is totally unknown to me..... Ad Somsen [98] who had come over from Portugal also received a warm applause. After lunch suitcases with old pictures, letters and

newspaper-cuttings were opened causing a great deal of hilarity from time to time. The presentation with laptop and beamer by Martien van der Burg of old pictures and slides of the days that those present were young was welcomed with a lot of appreciation. Cries of surprise were rife.

Dick gladly made use of the beamer to explain the genealogy of the descendants of Gezinus Somsen [19] who were present and he could also give some insight into the birth and the aims of the Somsen Foundation. As a result he could register five new donors right on the spot and all of them received an update of the genealogy CD-ROM as a reward.

The location was chosen in wonderful surroundings, it was only a pity that it rained almost all day. Still, in between showers there was an opportunity for a family picture with all cheerful faces.

We were all richly fed with all kinds of tasty snacks and drinks and at the end of the day brooms were produced and the hall was left behind neat and clean.

Saying good-bye to everybody was very warm-hearted and I will not be surprised that these grandchildren are going to organise more of these lovely days.

Also on behalf of Dick I want to thank the reunion committee for the invitation and the perfect organisation.



Family picture

The editor learned from the treasurer of the Somsen Foundation that a surplus of € 75 of this reunion in Hilversum has been credited to his account for which we thank these Somsens very much.



A European tour

by Lois Wernlund McEvoy [3862]
and Victoria Gayle McEvoy

In August and September 2009 Lois Wernlund McEvoy and her daughter Vicki made a European tour. In September they visited Amsterdam where they made a canal tour of the city with a number of Dutch Somsens. Lois is a great-granddaughter of Jan Hendrik Somsen [88] who emigrated from Aalten, The Netherlands, to America in 1881 thus becoming the ancestor of the second branch of American Somsens.

We had already met Lois during a visit to the USA in 1998 and again at the second worldwide Somsen Reunion in Baldwin, WI, in 2002 where she was one of the many Somsens present.

Being a wise, mature 21 year old, Vicki decided that she would give herself the gift of a trip to Europe for her college graduation. But, instead of going directly out of college, she would wait and earn enough money and vacation time to do the trip right. And what a wonderful daughter, she invited me to go with her!



Trevi fountain Rome

Our trip started in Rome, where we spent two full days walking the city and one day on a bus tour to Pompeii. It is impossible to condense those three days into a short paragraph much less a couple of sentences. But to try: Michelangelo was a genius, the Catholic Church is proud of its wealth, asking questions at information desks in airports and train stations yields helpful information, Pompeii is fascinating, and don't buy bottled water. Rome has built water fountains all across the city that provide fresh water straight from the aqueduct system.

Our next stop was Florence, Italy, where our hotel was again centrally located and we were able to walk everywhere. Our lesson learned: if you can't find a landmark you are looking for, try looking up. We were amazed that we were not able to find the bell tower of the Duomo (St. Maria Del Fiore) - we were standing right next to it!

From Florence we flew to Amsterdam. Our plane was late due to weather, so we didn't arrive until 9:00 PM. We rode the train to the city and a tram to the Muntplein. From there it was a short walk to our hotel. We found that we were more comfortable in Amsterdam than any other place we visited.

The Holland cousins said to reserve Saturday for them, so our first day in the city, we followed our mode of sightseeing and explored the city on foot. We walked to Anne Frankhuis, past Westerkerk and wandered down streets and along canals. We then headed out to the Red Light District and took in Oude Kerk, Nieuwe Kerk, The Palace, Centraal Station, and the flea market.

The Holland cousins are amazing. As promised, Theo arrived at our hotel on Saturday morning bringing pictures and stories about the Somsen family history. Theo's daughter, Hester, and Johan & Yvonne were not far behind. The only rain we had on our whole trip was this day. It turned into a blessing in disguise. Marnix brought his boat to the hotel dock and we loaded up.



Marnix brought his boat

Because most people do not like a little rain, the canals were fairly clear. Marnix took us on a canal tour of the city while we ate the picnic lunch Theo provided and received a history lesson like none other. Theo's knowledge of Dutch history is exceptional. What could be better than a boat ride, food, and being with family? After a language discussion where Marnix learned that although we do not sound like George W. Bush, Vicki's use of *ya'll* and *fixin'* to prove she is a Texan, Theo took us on a tour of some of the dikes and small villages outside Amsterdam. There are no words to express how much we appreciated the time and effort these wonderful cousins went through to show us such a wonderful time.

Sunday morning, we again headed to the train station for our next stop, Paris. We spent the afternoon on

foot. Our only reason for going to Paris was that the bus tour to Mont St. Michel left from there. Mont St. Michel was one of the buildings Vicki studied in one of her college classes and a WWII veteran from church talked about his visit there. The visit was everything we hoped for.

Berlin was our next stop. We stayed in former East Berlin just 3 blocks from Checkpoint Charlie. Berlin was our choice of cities to immerse ourselves into history. We found there is always more to learn and the past cannot, or should not be forgotten.

Our final stop was Ireland. With a last name of McEvoy, how could we not stop there? Driving on the left was not hard, but steering from the right proved more difficult, especially backing up. The Irish countryside is absolutely beautiful and is everything you have heard. Our choice of accommodations was bed & breakfasts and we were happy with the results. If you ever decide to visit Irish cities, be aware they do not like street signs on the streets nor on their maps. Our advice, take a GPS.

Nothing makes you appreciate home as much as being away. We have been asked by many what our favorite stop was. Without a doubt, it has to be Amsterdam. Being given such a warm welcome and time spent with family made it stand out from everything else. Theo, Marnix, Hester, Johan & Yvonne, thank you seems too inadequate to express our deep appreciation for what you gave us but that is all we have to offer at this time. If you ever get to Texas, our home is open.



Lois and Vicki

**Riding school The Achterhoek in IJzerlo
(www.manegedeachterhoek.nl)
celebrated its 45th anniversary**

by Harry Somsen [146]

Father Westerveld started teaching riding lessons in 1964. Now, 45 years later, four hundred people take riding lessons from his daughter Alice Sticker-Westerveld and her husband Eddie Sticker every week.

Henk Westerveld kept stallions to breed English and Arabic thoroughbreds. *Horses always were my father's greatest hobby* says Alice Sticker - Westerveld. When a long time ago somebody asked my father if he could teach him horse riding he started right away. He did so at the same place at the Dinxperlosestraatweg where had rented stables for his horses. Thus he became one of the first certified instructors in the Netherlands.

Mother Westerveld is still daily moving around to assist us in the riding school.



left to right: Alice Sticker Westerveld, Eddie Sticker, Grandma Greta Westerveld and son Job Sticker

Meanwhile the land together with the buildings belong to Alice and Eddie Sticker. Eddie tells how they bought the company from the Te Bokkel family in 1996. Now we own a riding school, a farm with boarding-facilities for horses and a mini-campsite. Every year the Somsens get together at this campsite for their traditional Somsen weekend and the barbecue. They have done this since the first Worldwide Somsen Reunion in August 1997. Afterwards they also inaugurated the new riding hall at the third Worldwide Somsen Reunion in 2007 and they keep returning to the mini-campsite in August every year.

When the old riding hall got too small in the course of time we pulled down three former pigsties and a new riding hall of 35 x 70 yards was built. Here we teach about 400 horse enthusiasts each week. Eddie tells how children from 6 years of age can start at their



The 5-stars

riding school with so-called F1 lessons. They form a good basis according to the Dutch Equestrian Federation. From the F8 level there is a good connection with competitive sport. Since safety is a very important issue in jumping riders have to wear very good protection for the upper part of the body. In the lessons pleasure comes first and this is clearly visible

when you see the riders at work. By now we have a fifth star and thus we belong to the very small, select group of 5-star riding schools in The Netherlands.

Their children Leila and Job also help in the riding school after school and after having finished homework. In the riding school there are lots of classmates. In their riding school Alice and Eddie have forty horses of their own and besides they accommodate about 25 horses in the stables that belong to other horsemen.



Leila Sticker

Because of the combination of riding school, farm with boarding-facilities for horses and mini-campsite they attract many customers from far away. They even teach people that come from Utrecht, Tiel and Eindhoven.

Both rider and horse can be accommodated. And this is often necessary since there are well over 750 miles of cross-border tracks in Euregio (a large area extending to The Netherlands and Germany). Eddie has also made tracks by himself. Touristic horse-riding is certainly growing in the Achterhoek.

Next year the Stickers will start doing combined outdoor rides with the slogan: *Enjoy the ride*. In these rides they focus on dressage, jumping and cross-country.

Alice says she believes that dressage only is too limited. You should be able to jump and know how to ride cross-country as well. Therefore we give the people a taste of everything because you are only a good rider when you can do everything.

The Somsens were given a show of this at their 2007 reunion.

In 2009 Alice had another jubilee: she celebrated her 50th anniversary and the neighbours clearly let everybody know by hanging out banners which we witnessed at our camping weekend in 2009.



The banners made by the neighbours

Website: www.somsen.org

by Oscar Somsen [2040]

Since the establishment of our family foundation in January 1998 we have had our own website. It was John Howard Somsen [2353] from the USA who started our site. He was our webmaster for many years but during our worldwide reunion in 2007 he handed over the (USB-) stick to Oscar Somsen, a Somsen descendant of a younger generation and we are very happy with this.

The Somsen Foundation has run a website (www.somsen.org) of her own for many years now. There you can find a lot of interesting information about the history of our foundation and about the worldwide reunions. About all kind of activities, the board, products that can be bought and about our family book: Somsen Omnes Generations. You can also read the Newsletters and all the Somsen Horizons. The latest edition of Somsen Horizon is published on the site six months after publication. Of course the supporters of our foundation receive a hard copy in May. Since last year we have had an inventory of all the articles that were published in the first 21 Somsen Horizons. Easy when you want to look for a particular article or to see what we have published so far.



It is also very special that you can consult the most recent genealogical database. Here you can find information about yourself but also about other Somsens you meet. To enter the genealogical database you need a special password which is published in the latest paper version of Somsen Horizon on page 2. It is also possible to order the Cd-rom so that you can consult the database at home.

Quite recently we opened a page where pictures can be published. And finally there is a guestbook. Unfortunately we are haunted by spam but we are trying to do something about it. When you visit the site it would be nice to leave a message. In this way we know what you think of the site, what we can change or improve. If you want to contact other people in the guestbook you can send a message to the webmaster.

The Violaar

by Ben Somsen [438] and Arnold Somsen [2041]

The making of a PR-video film.

This autumn my brother Wim [440] hopes to celebrate the 5th lustrum of *Violaar* building.



Wim with the soprano-Violaar

The Violaar is a musical instrument which combines the violin and the guitar. Twenty-five years ago Wim developed this instrument with the object to teach young children, next to the recorder, to play a stringed instrument. Maybe you remember the Violaar from the last

family reunion in IJzerlo. There was also a video film then, made by Arnold, and Wim gave a workshop.

In 25 years the Violaar has seen quite a development. Many Violaars have been built and they have been used a lot at primary schools. Once there was even a real orchestra with Violaars only. Wim liked a video film to be made in which the construction of the Violaar was shown step by step. During the consultations for the script it turned out to be unavoidable to go into a bit of history. Therefore the movie begins with an introduction showing Wim playing the very first instrument. The first instruments were made of cans and steel strings.



Wim playing the tin bass-Violaar

In the early stages Wim built about 800 Violaars together with primary school pupils. The sound of these instruments was a bit disappointing, though. So Wim decided to build the next series of this instrument of

wood and real violin strings. By now he has already built nearly 300 renewed Violaars in various keys: soprano, tenor and bass. These instruments can both be played with a bow and with the fingers. Moreover he has written a teaching method in two parts entitled: *Play the Violaar*.

After we agreed about the script Arnold and I travelled from Zaandam to Wageningen to start shooting the film. Arnold made the close-ups and I shot the other images. We filmed the whole construction process from the very first action, making the side of the instrument, tightening the strings and making the bow. Meanwhile Wim is telling about his experiences with the Violaar. The movie ends with pictures of playing the newly-built instruments.



Left to right: soprano- tenor- and bass Violaar

At the Somsen website www.somsen.org you will find a shortened version of this video film. If you are interested in the complete film on DVD you can contact Ben Somsen: ben.somsen@planet.nl

A unique exposition of photographs and paintings

by Theo Somsen [227]

Ben Somsen [396] and his wife Hannie Stroes [397] exhibited their most recent works in the Public Library in Eibergen till January 2, 2010.

Our ex-chairman, Theo Somsen, opened the exhibition on November 6, 2009, with a speech for Ben, Hannie, their children and grandchildren and a large number of friends and acquaintances. Here you will find a summary of this speech.

Hannie and Ben have asked me to open this exhibition. Tonight we can simply enjoy what Hannie and Ben show in this joint presentation of their most recent work.

And when you are going to do this very soon, please be aware:

1. That Hannie and Ben are both well over 70.
2. That more than 150 years of life-experience is concentrated in their work.
3. And also, though they will soon have been married for 50 years, that each of them set the first steps in the field of painting and photography before they got married.

You will only be shown a small tip of an enormous production but this tip is top of the bill.

Moreover you should be well aware that Ben and Hannie have exchanged ideas about each others works and artistic ideas during all their lives.

This must have stimulated their love for each other enormously for we all know that there has always been a strong area of tension between painting and photography.

Ben and Hannie, though, managed to go beyond the area of tension between painting and photography: they did not lose sight of each other, they followed each others development and discussed this together. In my opinion the result of this is clearly recognisable in this exhibition.

Two elements are striking:

1. Their themes seem to have grown together for nature that surrounds us can be traced down in both their works.
2. It also struck me that sometimes it looks as if both Hannie and Ben have transformed one and the same landscape.

To me it is clear that Hannie and Ben have melted together.

Dear guests, dear Hannie and Ben,

We are bound to enjoy your exhibition which breathes so much of your passion for beauty, your dedication, craftsmanship and mature experience of life. And we will do so realising that you are not yet ranked among the immortals. You will only become immortal when you are no longer alive.

For that reason your work is not yet really expensive. But you should know that for us you have reached that stage of immortality now.



Left Ben Somsen

How an *outsider* looks at the Somsen-family

by Alice Sticker - Westerveld

Since 1997 we, as Somsen-family, have had many pleasant contacts with Eddie and Alice Sticker-Westerveld, the owners of Riding-school De Achterhoek and the small campsite belonging to it. When we were busy with the preparations for our first Worldwide Somsen Reunion in 1997 we very soon got in touch with them since there were possibilities to accommodate members of our family at their small and pleasant campsite. It was a special attraction that their campsite lies within a stone's throw from the oldest site we know where Somsens used to live as early as the early 1600s: The Somsenhouse in IJzerlo.

Since the big reunion of 1997 we have had our annual Somsen Camping weekends at the campsite of Eddie and Alice. When we organised our third Worldwide Somsen Reunion in 2007 Eddie and Alice spontaneously offered their wonderful brand-new riding hall.

Without the slightest hesitation we can say that we feel much at home there after all these years.



I will not easily forget the winter of 1996/97. Since September we had lived in the small dwelling near the *Hoftijzer* (our riding-school). Job was a baby and Leila had just turned one. There was a lot of work to do in order to realise our plans: founding a camping-farm together with a small campsite and expanding the riding-school.

Then winter set in the week before Christmas and to my great sadness my father, who had been our great support and anchor in our new challenge, passed away on December 23, 1996. And there was I: severe frost, two small children, a stable full with horses, Eddie with a full-time job in Zevenaar, renovations and worst of all the sudden loss of my father with whom I had already made so many plans. But it never gets so dark or there will be light again and that happened in February 1997 when suddenly an unknown man stepped into our tiny living-room. He introduced himself a Dik Somsen from Eibergen and right from the start the contact felt like some sort of friendship.

He was looking for a location for the Worldwide Somsen Reunion in August 1997 and a friend, Wim Kämink, had sent him to us. It was our first big *project* and it surely felt kind of thrilling. I still admire Dik that he dared to make plans and appointments with us in spite of the chaotic situation we were in. Nothing had been rebuilt yet and it was going to be quite a happening. Now, 13 years later, we often think back to this and in all these years we have experienced so many beautiful, exciting and funny things with the Somsen family.



John Howard Somsen en Alice

Such as this one: just before the 1997 reunion the campsite was full with Somsens and there were a great number of chickens (mostly roosters) running about. The roosters nearly caused a premature end to our cooperation. Early in the morning these animals started crowing very loudly and Dick Somsen from Zwolle, who had an important task at the reunion, got badly disturbed at night. Early in the morning he came up to us saying: either the roosters or I have to leave. After deliberating about it Dick found himself accommodation at some quiet place but in the end everything was all right. The reunion was super and Dick has been visiting our campsite all these years.

Every year I also excitedly wait for the sound of Johan's wooden shoes for the party really begins when he is there together with his squeeze-box and Yvonne. (Meanwhile I have so nicely worked together with her daughter in the field of horse-riding). The whole Somsen family have a talent for music, I believe, for we have already heard so many different kinds of music from the campsite.

In the first years Johan came with a romantic, little tent but after a cloudburst, after which our tumble drier did overtime work and all our bedclothes had disappeared to the campsite he decided to switch over to a luxurious caravan. I still believe he had to do this in order to save his relationship for Yvonne had never believed in the romantic aspects of the little tent that much.

Theo is another loyal and above all pleasant visitor and from him I have a few books in my bookcase he picked

up at the book-market in Bredevoort. Isn't it awfully nice that somebody just thinks of you?

In 2007 at the last reunion we had an American Somsen, John Howard Somsen, as a guest. That was so nice; every night he came to the canteen of the riding-school for one or more nightcaps. From him we got a beautiful painting as a present which is still on the wall of the canteen. John Howard forgot a pair of shoes in IJzerlo. I hope he is going to collect them some day and therefore I leave where they are.

I could keep going on bringing back all these nice memories that I have of your family, of Margriet's grandchildren, of Ada's dog, of our super handyman Harry from Zelhem who was so kind as to present us with a bunch of flowers on behalf of the Somsen family when we celebrated the 45th anniversary of our riding-school, of Wim who always organises the annual barbecues, of Ben with his beautiful photo's and so I could go on and on. In short there are so many sweet, pleasant and beautiful memories and I do hope that they will grow in the future.



Flowers

Lots of love from,

Eddie, Alice, Leila and Job Sticker-Wersterveld, IJzerlo

In Memoriam Geertrui Gezina Somsen [88] 1918 - 2009



This is a summary of the speech of her son Otto [119] at her funeral in Middelburg on August 28, 2009.

My mother was born in Bolnes on May 15, 1918, as the youngest daughter of Gezinus Somsen and Geertrui van Driel. She had two brothers and six sisters: Grada, Anneke, Dit, Goof, Dina, Marie, Dirk and Mien.

The age difference with her eldest sister Grada was 16 years. Her father was headmaster of the local school and he was a striking personality. Unfortunately he died when he was six and she has experienced this as

a great loss all her life. In 1932 her sister Dina died as well. In spite of these extreme events my mother always remembered nice and cheerful stories about her childhood in the headmaster's house, about their close family, the lovely holidays in Hoofddorp and the Achterhoek.

She attended primary school and high school and wanted to work with children. Therefore she got a training at the Tesselschadeschool and after that she got a job at a relief centre for unmarried mothers near Amsterdam. Because of the war she had to stop there. Because of this it was possible for her to help her relatives. During the difficult years of the crisis and the war period from 1940 to 1945 she quite regularly helped out in the families of her brothers and sisters when children were born or during illness. In the meantime Henk van Winkelhof crossed her path and on September 24, 1946, they got married. They moved in with her parents-in-law in IJsselmonde and in 1947 Otto was born there.

When her mother died in 1949 they moved to her mother's house in Paul Kruger Street where her eldest sister Gra lived as well. There Gerie was born. My father was transferred to Middelburg. A new place as a regular meant a new life for the young family *in foreign parts*. In Middelburg Krijn was born in 1954 and 5 years later Wilmie.

She was a great mother, mother-in-law, Grandma, Grand-mom and *Old Grand-mom*.

The words *son-in-law* and *daughter-in-law* did not exist in her vocabulary. She had given birth to four children and she had got four additional children. They were her children just as well.

He was always there, for better and for worse, always together with Dad. She knew exactly when you had to do an exam, when you had to go to the dentist, when you were on holiday and when you came back home again.

When she took ill and when she had to live with limitations she did not like it at all when we came and helped her.

My mother was a woman from thousands!

Devoted to her husband, proud of her children, grandchildren and Pim, her great-grandchild and everything connected with her family.

Dear mother, we are going to miss you very badly, but you have left behind an ineradicable place in our hearts. Thank you so much for all of this. It is good!

Bye-bye dear mother, rest in peace.

Engelbart Somsen no Sunday's child

by Johan Somsen [1089]

On Sunday, 13 August 1848, Engelbart Somsen [1142] saw the light of day in Aalten. His parents were Hendrik Willem Somsen [223] and Wilhelmina Sondern [1139]. His father was a farmer.

To go a little further back into his direct ancestry the following survey may offer some more clarity.

MALE LINE	YEAR OF BIRTH
Lubbert Somsen [211]	1722
Jan Somsen [208]	1746
Jan Teube Somsen [215]	1773
Hendrik Willem Somsen [223]	1806
Engelbart Somsen [1142]	1848

So Engelbart was born in Aalten in 1848 but at the age of 19 he left for Dinxperlo on 13 December 1867.

From another source (<http://prive.bentware.nl/stamboom/phpGedView/individual.php?pid=1036535334&ged=Volledig.ged>) we learn that he moved to Germany. This is not so surprising for Dinxperlo is practically situated on the German border. Moreover his mother, Wilhelmina Sondern [1139], came from Germany. She was born in Bocholt (Germany) around 1818.

Till far into the 20th century people in the border area used the name *Prussia* for Germany.

Engelbart never got married and as far as we know he did not have any offspring either. Yet he left something behind for us in the shape of a few entries in the *General Police Archives*. The first entry dates from 1874, when he was 26, and the other one is from 1876. Thanks to the fact that he did not shrink back from a fight - he was wanted for inflicting harm - we still get some more information about this unknown, naughty Somsen. Now we know that he really left for Germany (*Pruissen*), that he was a farmhand and that he was wanted by the judicial powers.

- 690. SOMSEN, Engelbert,
- 691. VRIEZE, Evert Jan, en
- 692. OVERBEEK, Jannes, allen boerenknechts,
- 693. MEIJNEN, Willem, klompenmaker, allen wonende te Süderwick (Pruissen).

Tegen deze 4 personen is door de arrond. regtbank te Zutphen, ter zake van verwonding, regtsingang met bevel van gevangenneming verleend.

De officier van justitie te Zutphen verzoekt opsporing, aanhouding en opzending.

(Summary of this ancient document: Engelbart Somsen, Evert Jan Vrieze, Jannes Overbeek and Wilhelm Meijnen, all residents of Süderwick (Prussia = Germany) are wanted by the court of Zutphen because of inflicting harm. There is an order for them to be put behind bars).

In the *General Police Archives* of 1876 we find the following entry:

De officier van justitie te Zutphen herinnert aan zijne verzoeken tot opsporing en aanhouding van:

Engelbert Somsen,
Evert Jan Vrieze en
Jannes Overbeek, (zie bladz. 433)

(Summary of this ancient document: the public prosecutor in Zutphen reminds of a search warrant for Engelbart Somsen, Evert Jan Vrieze and Janne Overbeek).

In any case it is clear that our Engelbart, together with his cronies Evert Jan Vrieze and Jannes Overbeek managed to stay out of the hands of the police for about two years. Could we carefully conclude from this that he was a smart guy or that the whole judicial system did not work properly?

My direct ancestry goes back to Lubbert Somsen through a totally different line which puts me at a safe distance from Engelbart, but I know Somsens on our board who descend directly from Jan Teube Somsen, which places them dangerously close to Engelbart.

Making the acquaintance of Jobim Zwarts

by Johan Somsen [1089]

For quite some time Jobim Zwarts [2034] has helped us out translating articles for our family magazine. He belongs to the younger generation and we are very pleased that he responded spontaneously to our request to help us relieve our activities. From time to time we have gratefully made use of this and we believe it is time to introduce him to you.

During a meeting at his home in Zwolle we had a very nice conversation and enjoyed a cup of coffee in the company of his wife Mariëtte [5854] and their two daughters [5854] Veerle [5855] and Lotte [5856]. Jobim is the son of Marien Zwarts [446] and Mimi Somsen [445] and he was born in Renkum on January 4, 1966. That his parents loved moving house quite often becomes clear from the series of the places of residence of Jobim. From the place of his early childhood, Renkum, he moved to Apeldoorn and next to Delfzijl and Ede.

As early as his high school years he had a soft spot for languages and he had a very special preference for English. The contact with this language was deepened because of Jobim's great interest in music and since English music is very popular in The Netherlands he learned a lot through play.

He is an enthusiastic musician, he plays various instruments: the recorder, the flute, the piano a little and, last

but not least, the bass guitar. He proudly points to the guitars on the wall of his living-room. There are an acoustic guitar and a bass guitar that he has built himself. And still another bass guitar is under construction. In addition Jobim is fond of reading and of course also English books. This has also contributed to his command of the English language of course and as a consequence it provides him with a lot of pleasure. And we are lucky because of this since we can call upon him when there are many translations to be done for a new edition of Somsen Horizon.

Also his wife Mariëtte has special ties with the English language: in her youth she lived in London for a year as an au pair girl in the house of a couple who were both English teachers.

In spite of Jobim's gift for languages when he was in high school he chose totally different studies. First he went to a College of Advanced Technology in Arnhem where he studied electrical engineering, but this did not satisfy him. After that he fetched up in health care where he was trained as a radiographer. Meanwhile he is working as an audiological assistant at an audiological centre.

In his spare time Jobim is in charge of a scouting-group and he is also active in his church: the Free Evangelisation in Zwolle. And wherever he goes, his guitar is always with him.

He would be no right-minded Dutchman if he did not like skating. Though he is not in for big tours he has chosen for a serious approach of this sport. He has taken classes in skating and regularly goes to the ice rink De Scheg in Deventer where he puts his skills into practice.

We do hope that we may call upon Jobim more often in the future for we are very happy with his contributions.



The Zwarts family at home

Liesbeth Somsen from Nijmegen: Member of the Order of *Oranje Nassau*

door Harry Somsen [146]



Liesbeth Somsen with the flowers she got

Vitality and indefatigably 78-year-old Wilhelmina Petronella (Elisabeth) Somsen - Willems [720] carries on. She is a participant in the Foundation *Inhabitants Platform Meijhorst* and also a participant in the Foundation *De Zevensprong* on behalf of the first foundation.

Her contributions to the study group Space, Locations and Economy were very much appreciated and the same goes for her work in the committee Safe Meijhorst. Next to this she turns out to have time for her family and many other matters.

On April 7, 2007 Mayor Thom de Graaf of Nijmegen pinned the decorations on Liesbeth Somsen [720] and seven other women and eighteen men in the presence of hundreds of relatives, friends and colleagues. According to a speech by Mayor Thom de Graaf Liesbeth Somsen had made an effort on behalf of the establishment of the Foundation Financial Administration for the Elderly (the Fibon Foundation) as an advisor from 1988 to 1992. Because of her background in social work she was extremely suitable. In 1992 she became president. There was a great demand for the work of the foundation that speaks up for senior citizens in need of support in the field of finances. The number of clients was growing rapidly and the foundation got a famous name, also outside Nijmegen. Liesbeth made contacts with companies and institutions to take measures for the elderly. For instance with housing agencies about payment of rent.

Also after her parting as president she stayed one of the figure heads of Fibon. In this period she concentrated all her energy on the personal support of clients for in her opinion people who have worked hard all their lives to build up our society should not be abandoned

when they grow older. The mayor says he fully agrees to this. Therefore Mayor Thom de Graaf is very happy that Her Majesty the Queen had been graciously pleased to appoint her member of the Order of Oranje Nassau.



The decorated inhabitants of Nijmegen and the mayor on the stairs of "De Vereniging"

Old-fashioned recipes

by Emma Somsen [1190]

These were simple and cheap meals that used to be served when there were workmen (like painters) who stayed for dinner or when people were busy on the land. They were especially popular in The Achterhoek and may well have been prepared by the first Somsen settlers in America.

Buttermilk sauce:

For 2 persons

Half a litre of buttermilk (2 cups), 2 tablespoons of flour, 1 lb of cubes of bacon, 2 onions.

Fry the bacon over a small fire, add the sliced onions. Boil the buttermilk with flour into a sauce and stir the bacon and onions into it.

Serve with boiled potatoes and lettuce (not dressed), endive salad or beans (either French beans or red kidney beans).

Recipe for red kidney bean soup

Ingredients: in the past they used red kidney beans that had to be boiled; nowadays you can use a can or a glass of boiled beans, a few potatoes, smoked sausage. (In the past they also used pig's trotter and pig-tail for meat).

Boil the potatoes, add the beans and the smoked sausage (sliced) and dinner is ready.

**In Memoriam
Patricia George - Somsen [931]**

HAILEY - Former Hailey resident Patricia George, 76, passed away peacefully Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, Calif., after a long illness.

She was the daughter of Frank Somsen [876], a sheep rancher, and Gladys Marshall Somsen [920] of Hailey, Idaho, and wife of John H. George [932], a former Idaho State representative and publisher of the Lincoln County Journal in Shoshone, Idaho, during the 1960s. The George family later moved to Cave Creek, Ariz., in 1970. Patti will be lovingly remembered for her gregarious nature and positive attitude, and as a caring wife, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her children, Marshall George of San Francisco, Calif., Stephanie Deamon of Coto de Caza, Calif., and John George Jr. of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; grandchildren, Taylor, Mitchell and Charles Deamon; and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; and siblings, Beatrice, Stanley, Stewart and Frank Somsen, Helen Knocke and Gladys Buttram. A memorial service will be held this summer in Hailey (date to be announced). Those who would like to attend may contact her son, Marshall, by emailing him at mg1102@comcast.net. Published Wednesday, January 27, 2010

**In Memoriam
Wanda Jean Somsen [2831]**

Longtime Durango resident Wanda Jean Somsen died of heart failure at Mercy Regional Medical Center on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009. She was 70.

Mrs. Somsen was born to G.B. and Wanda Reed in Amarillo, Texas, on Oct. 18, 1938. She graduated from both Amarillo High School and St. Mary's Academy in 1956. She earned her registered nurse degree from the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Dallas in 1960 and a teaching degree from West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas, in 1963.

Mrs. Somsen had lived in Colorado since 1963 and had been a Durango resident since 1977. On Jan. 26, 1963, she married Gary Lee Somsen in Amarillo. Mrs. Somsen worked as a nurse at Gunnison Community and Montrose Memorial hospitals and as an elementary school teacher in Montrose. After moving to Durango, she worked in the Medical Records Department at Community Hospital in Durango and as a dental office receptionist for Dr. Carl Johnson.

The Somsens welcomed 74 foster children into their

home. Mrs. Somsen was an active member and past president of the board of directors at the La Plata County Humane Society and was on the board of the Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center. She volunteered at the Rape Crisis Center and helped found the Lupus Support Group in Southwest Colorado. Her family said Mrs. Somsen was also an advocate for children's rights. *Jean's passion was her grandchildren, caring for animals, fly fishing, camping and the Rocky Mountains*, her family wrote. *Jean was a caring and giving individual whose main goal in life was to help others. She would give even when she had nothing to give but her love.*

Mrs. Somsen is survived by her husband of 46 years, Gary Lee Somsen, of Durango; sons Mike Somsen of Durango and Steve Somsen of Fort Myers Beach, Fla.; daughter, Julie Harris, of Durango; foster daughter Charlett Valencia of Durango; sisters Nelda Watkins of Amarillo and Nell Rogers of Austin, Texas; eight grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Cremation will occur. A celebration of life potluck and remembrance will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, at the Windom Room in the Durango Community Recreation Center. Mrs. Somsen requested that her ashes be spread in the Spring Creek area of the Rocky Mountains near Gunnison.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to help offset medical expenses may be sent to the Jean Somsen Memorial Fund at the First National Bank of Durango, 259 W. 9th St., Durango, CO 81301; or the Jean Somsen Memorial Fund for the capital campaign to build new facilities at the La Plata County Humane Society, 1111 South Camino del Rio, Durango, CO 81303.



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

- 16-10-2004:** Dale Jeremy [6449], s.o. Nate Harris [6448] and Juliane Christine (Julie) Somsen [2834]
06-07-2006: Dillion [6450], s.o. Nate Harris [6448] and Juliane Christine (Julie) Somsen [2834]
04-01-2008: Logan Jager [6530], s.o. Derek Jager Edwards [4875] and Megin Barbara Flaherty [4957]
23-01-2009: Isabelle Dirkje An [6668], d.o. Maarten Ernest Somsen [259] and Janneke Gabriëlle Roussel [6667]
25-08-2009: Ryan John Errigo, s.o. John and Becky Errigo
24-09-2009: Benjamin Job [6477], s.o. Marcel Raymond (Marcel) Somsen [1196] and Paulina Jochiema (Lione) van Klij [4961]
23-01-2010: Joshua Willem [6764], s.o. Albertus Reinier van Roekel [2852] and Lissa Carine Carrion [5074]



Joshua Willem
van Roekel



Logan Jager
Edwards

Married

- 25-05-2003:** Nate Harris [6448] and Juliane Christine (Julie) Somsen [2834]
23-06-2007: Maarten Ernest Somsen [259] and Janneke Gabriëlle Roussel [6667]
06-02-2009: Derk Jan (Dick) Somsen [160] and Iwonna Bronislawa Koprofka [6663]
01-05-2009: Freek Vincentius Gerardus Spanbroek [6445] and Jantien Somsen [552]
30-06-2009: Hans Somsen [2322] and Hester Slijkhuis [6768]
11-07-2009: Geert Jan Somsen [473] and Margaret Owens (Margaret) Meredith [6488]
18-09-2009: Merein Donald (Merein) Somsen [183] and Johanna (Jorien) van de Maat [6765]
25-02-2010: Johanna Margaretha (Joke) Somsen [132] and Eduard (Ed) Wijngaard [5574]
01-05-2010: Martine Jolanda (Martine) Somsen [182] and Chris Jansen [6660]

Deceased

- 01-07-2007:** Dorothy Somsen [741], 90, Carmichael, CA. USA
29-05-2008: Eldora Mary (Bonnie) Somsen – Berggreen [744], 83, Peoria, AZ. USA
03-10-2008: Virginia Mae Eldridge – Ross [2664], 84, Rockaway Beach, OR. USA
18-12-2008: José Mengerink-Bruil [6616], 49, Eibergen
24-12-2008: Gerritjen Doornink – Heijink [3333], 87, Aalten
28-01-2009: Iva Lee Somsen - Alcorn [3796], 90, Frazier Park, CA. USA
13-02-2009: Alvin Charles Richards [2940], 82, Carlotta, CA. USA
24-04-2009: Hendrik (Henk) van Winkelhof [116], 90, Middelburg
22-06-2009: Charles Harvey Rasmussen [813], 84, Glenwood City, WI. USA
27-06-2009: Gerald Eugene Somsen [2526], 76, Chandler, AZ. USA
13-07-2009: Hendrik Herman (Henk) Veenhuis [2576], 75, Doetinchem
23-08-2009: Geertrui Gezina (Gé) van Winkelhof - Somsen [88], 91, Middelburg
24-08-2009: Ruth Arlene Meendering - van der Garde [5274], 76, Sioux Center, IA. USA
26-09-2009: Wanda Jean (Jean) Somsen - Reed [2831], 70, Durango, CO. USA
13-10-2009: Pieter de Groot [612], 80, Emmen
09-12-2009: Arend Jan (Arie) Somsen [1249], 57, Eibergen
10-12-2009: Patricia Francis (Patti) George – Somsen [931], 76, Cave Creek, AZ. USA
06-01-2010: Jeannette Somsen – van der Velde [2495], 84 Visalia, CA. USA
16-02-2010: Mina Somsen – Koopman [1885], 79, Eibergen
27-02-2010: Johannes Hendrikus (Joop) Duenk [384], 82 Winterswijk
04-03-2010: Johanna Hendrika (Riek) te Paske [1318], 86, Aalten
07-03-2010: Hendrik (Henk) Ballast [1356], 80, Hoogeveen
24-03-2010: Johanna Berendina (Dien) Somsen – Klein Wolterink [511], 92, Aalten
07-04-2010: Frederik Hendrik (Freek) Somsen [62], 82, Hengelo (O)



Canal Tour of Amsterdam

