



d.i.s. magazine

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
THE DUTCH INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2002
VOLUME 34, NO. 2

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In Memoriam

On May 20, 2002, one of our former Board Members and President of the Dutch International Society Mr. William (Bill) G. Turkenburg died at the age of 85. He was born in Boskoop, the Netherlands.

Mr. Turkenburg was elected board member in 1969. Soon he was elected by the Board to be its president and he served as president for 12 years. His leadership during this time was excellent! Bill retired from the Board in 1982.

I had the privilege of serving with Bill for twelve years on the Board.

Lucas DeVries, Secretary

The Cover

Jubal Drum and Bugle Corps from Dordrecht performing in Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. July 24, 2002. Photo by Arend Vander Pols

KLM/Northwest Round Trip Rates to Amsterdam for 2002-2003

SHOULDER SEASON FARES: SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 31, 2002

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Free Admission

Landdag 2002

Annual Dutch Heritage Day

September 14, 2002 10 AM Till 4 PM

Hudsonville Fairgrounds

5235 Park Street — Hudsonville, Michigan

First Prize Drawing — Free Trip to the Netherlands (DIS Members Only)

Door Prizes awarded all day (Registration closes at 2:00 PM sharp!)

Master of Ceremonies: Abel Odding - DJ

Dutch "Klompdansers" at 12 Noon

Frisian Horses Riding Demonstration at 2:00 PM



It's music with an international flavor, as Dutch disc jockey Abel Odding presents the finest recorded music at the Annual Landdag 2002. Join us in a great sing-a-long, with the orchestras and choruses of Cliff Adams, Pierre Biersma and Johnny Holshuysen.

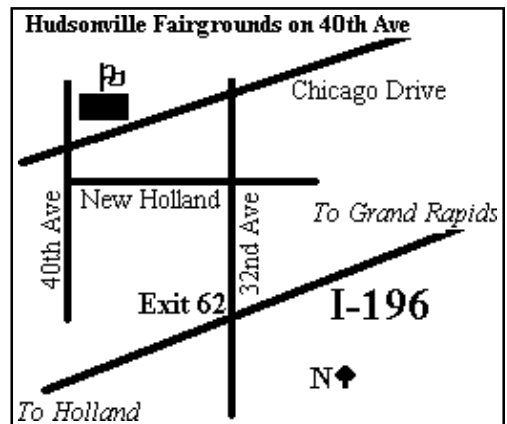
You'll hear a special program of songs by the girl's choir "Sweet Sixteen", and an international "Accordion Festival", featuring the best music from Holland, Germany and France.

We also invite you to join your friends in the popular "Stoeltjesdans". You could win one of the many prizes that are offered. For the first time this year, you can put your very own CD of music together as a souvenir of this year's Dutch Day.

And if you would like to hear your favorite music, call Abel at 847/798-9597, or send an email to aodding@attbi.com and we'll include it in this year's lineup. All this and much more at the Landdag 2002, on September 14, at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds.

We look forward to seeing you again this year.

BRING YOUR LAWNCHAIRS!



Landdag Program

*** Entire program is recorded music***

- 10:00 AM OPENING AND WELCOME - By the President of the Dutch International Society, Al Slendebroek.
- 10:05 "SWEET SIXTEEN" - The Girl's Choir, directed by Lex Karsemeijer, in a program of well known songs.
- 10:30 YOUR ACCORDION FESTIVAL (part one) - With the orchestra's of Jan Gorissen, Henny Langeveld, Tony Meler and Will Glahe.
- 10:45 SING MIT - The orchestra and chorus of James Last in a rousing non-stop sing-a-long.
- 11:00 DE TREKVOGELS - This new and revised ensemble of "Vrij en Blij" is directed by Wessel Dekker, featuring vocalist Dick Doorn. Happy songs from Holland.
- 11:30 ZING MET ONS MEE - De Windmolens, olv Johnny Holshuysen, mzv bekende zangers en zangeressen.
- 11:45 SING SOMETHING SIMPLE - Non-stop sing-a-long with the Cliff Adams singers. This choir has been singing on the BBC since 1959.
- 12:00 DE KLOMPEN DANCERS - LIVE and direct from Holland, Michigan and famous for their Tulip Time performances.
- 12:30 THE TOPS IN POPS FROM HOLLAND - With Marco Borsato, Conny Vandebos, Andre Hazes, Boudewijn de Groot, Imca Marina, BZN and many others.
- 1:15 DE STOELTJESDANS - Join us in a real dutch "musical chairs", and maybe win a nice prize.
- 1:30 DO YOU REMEMBER? - Popular Dutch music from the 50's, 60's and 70's, with Max van Praag, Annie de Reuver, De Ramblers, De Jonge Flierefluiters, Orkest zonder naam and others.
- 2:00 FRISIAN HORSE RIDING DEMONSTRATION - A Landdag favorite returns with beautiful horses and riders.
- 2:15 INTERNATIONAL FAVORITES - The orchestra and chorus of James Last, with music from Holland, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and the U.S.A.
- 2:45 ACCORDION FESTIVAL (part two) - The happy harmonica's of "De Kermisklanten" and the orchestra's of Pierre Beaumont and Will Glahe.
- 3:00 ZING MET ONS MEE - Songs you remember from Holland, with the orchestra and chorus of Pierrie Biersma.
- 3:15 THE MARINE BAND OF THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY, Conducted by Captain J.J. Koops. A quarter hour of stirring marches.
- 3:30 VRIJ EN BLIJ olv Wessel Dekker, mzv Henk Dorel - More happy songs and melodies from Holland.
- 4:00 PROGRAM CLOSING - D.I.S. President Al Slendebroek will close the program with the drawing for the Grand Prize of a free trip to the Netherlands.

*** Program subject to change***

From the Editor

The Jubal Drum and Bugle Corps from Dordrecht (pictured on our cover) made a surprise stop in Grand Rapids, Michigan during its World Tour, 2002.

While the visit wasn't a complete surprise, plans for a Grand Rapids stop weren't finalized in time to announce them in the last issue of *dis magazine*. Efforts were made to get the word out - a big story was published in the Lakeshore Edition of the Grand Rapids Press, and a smaller announcement appeared in the city edition. I even posted something on the DIS website. It got me to thinking that maybe an email list of those members so enabled might be worthwhile as a way to help get out the word in cases such as this. If you are interested in being on such a list, please email me (vande118@msu.edu) and ask to be put on the DIS group email list.

This issue of *dis magazine* is full of getting the word out - about the past, the present and the future. Board member Martin Rustenburg continues his series of articles about the Dutch immigration experience in Australia. Janet Shaarda Sheeres responds to another member's request for information about Sint Maartens Dag, and we have several member contributions about the 'old days'.

Along with articles and stories, this issue is full of announcements of opportunities to sample Dutch culture. From the DIS yearly festival *Landdag* to a video about the Royal Wedding, choirs, and travelogues - you can see that your society is vibrant and active. September 11 is a day to remember and mourn - but we also carry on and celebrate the blessings of being Dutch and American.



The back of the Jubal World Tour 2002 t-shirt. For more information about Jubal visit www.jubal.org

Australia Bound!

Dutch Immigration Experiences (part two)

by Marten Rustenburg

To introduce part two of my series of articles about Dutch immigrants in Australia, I begin with a little history and some statistics. Australia, like North America, is a land of immigrants in that it is dominated by those who came in the last several centuries. The Dutch traders were the first Europeans who discovered the continent but found nothing to attract them to it. Of course, the criteria for them at that time was a profitable trade. So when the aboriginal proved to be hostile, the ship captains were instructed to stay away.



The Royal Netherlands and East Indies Forces Memorial, located in the Defense Complex in Canberra, Australia.

The British, coming from the East, saw potential in the southeastern coastal areas as good for colonizing. Having wrested concessions from the Netherlands after the Treaty of Paris (1784) the British now had free trade throughout the Indies. They also looked beyond trade and desired to have military and naval outposts. Eventually they saw Australia as a good place to build penal colonies to relieve the overflowing prisons in England. They had originally wanted to build penal camps in the American colonies but losing the Revolutionary war spoiled those plans. Building penal colonies was the beginning of the Anglo takeover of that land.

Interestingly, the British colonists developed a very restrictive view of who would be allowed to settle in the land. The ranchers were always begging for more laborers but low risk prisoners were about all they could get and these were not so reliable either. The ranchers wanted Chinese coolies and “Islanders”, as the dark skinned natives from the South Pacific were called. This was met with vigorous resistance. One of the points made as a rationale for this resistance was what had happened in North America with the slave trade. They had no desire to fall into that trap.

In the turn of the Twentieth Century, when Australia federated and became an official nation, immigration laws were still very restrictive. It was virtually impossible for a non white to immigrate. This contributed to slow growth in the population. On such a vast continent, it became evident that a more open policy would be prudent. The threat of the Japanese aggression made it even more obvious. There was not a large enough population (7 million) to support a military big enough to resist a Japanese invasion.

In 1941 the Netherlands had a fair sized military force in the Dutch East Indies (now

Indonesia) comprising of an Army of 41,000 plus 1400 officers. By 1942 these numbers had increased to 121,200 because local militias and guard units were added. There were three tank battalions but not enough tanks to fight with. They also had 102 fighter planes, 120 Glenn Martin bombers and 59 flying boats, but some of these were in disrepair and parts were no longer available. There were even too few trained pilots for what planes were operative. The Naval force was small but well equipped, well staffed and highly trained. There were three light cruisers, seven destroyers, fifteen submarines and many smaller boats. All of this was not much against the overwhelming size and speed of the Japanese air and naval forces. Although the four allies (USA, Great Britain, Australia/New Zealand, Netherlands) eventually combined their resources, it was too little too late. Much of the Dutch air and naval forces that survived the invasion retreated to Australia. Most of the civilian population were taken captive as prisoners of war - 70,000 of them Dutch women and children. The Dutch played an important but, until recently, largely unsung role in the war effort.

As Dutchmen escaped the occupied homeland, many were sent to the USA for military training. Many of those were sent to the Pacific theater. Although the Dutch eventually regained the Dutch East Indies, they faced another war against the Nationalists led by Sukarno. International politics, more than anything, made that war a futile effort. An interesting aside, a fairly large number of Japanese soldiers were still on the Islands and became involved. In May of 1946, there were still 64,000 Japanese troops under arms. Some fought with the uprising but many played a role in protecting the freed Dutch civilians from guerrillas and even fought along side the British against the insurgents. Although most of the native population preferred gradual self rule, Sukarno's Republican Party had declared themselves as the ruling government and demanded immediate liberation.

The Dutch military could have easily won the

war militarily but Sukarno won the ideological war by manipulating global opinion against the Netherlands. By 1949 it was all over and the Dutch population was forced to leave. Although many went back to the Netherlands at first, life there was bleak with a shortage of both jobs and housing. Most of them, including former military personnel, became part of the big exodus to other lands.

The Australian Government encouraged British and other European immigration in order to increase the population. By 1959, according to one source, European migrants numbered over 341,000, of which the Netherlands represented a significant number. The book, *A Church En Route*, a history of the Reformed Church in Australia, reports: "In 1958, Mrs. Adriana Zevenbergen became the 100,000th immigrant to arrive in Australia." This same book lists the breakdown of religious affiliation of these immigrants: R.C. - 39%; Dutch Reformed: 26%; Christian Reformed: 14%; other: 5%; none/unknown: 16%. I had the privilege to meet many of them and interview a few. Here are some individual stories.

[note: because I used the wrong microphone, the audio tapes of these interviews were of such poor quality that much conversation was lost. Some of what I write here is from my memory of these conversations. I take full responsibility for any inaccuracies].

Lou Vant Westende

Lou and his wife Mandy, live in Canberra. I was introduced to them by the Ambassador from the Netherlands, His Excellency Dr. H. Sondaal. Lou sold his company and retired on his 75th birthday in 2000. Getting to that point is a story that was fascinating to listen to. I spent a delightful evening in their home to hear it.

Lou grew up in Tilberg in a Roman Catholic home. That part of the Netherlands was liberated in 1944. He joined the military and was sent to Scotland to be cleared and outfitted. He was then sent to the USA and trained in Camp Le Jeune, North Carolina. He eventually became a medic with the Royal Dutch Marines. By the



Lou and Mandy Vant Westende

time his unit was ready. The rest of the Netherlands was liberated so they were sent to the South Pacific. Although liberated, the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) was at that time under the jurisdiction of the British military so, much to their chagrin, his unit was sent to protect a rubber plantation in Malaya.

Eventually the Dutch military was allowed back in to their colony and worked at trying to suppress the uprising and bring back law and order. This was necessary if there was to be an orderly transition to self rule. As mentioned earlier, as a result of political pressures against them, the Dutch forces were not able to make a final military victory. Lou remembers coming back to the Netherlands and being treated derisively, much like the American Vietnam veterans. It was more than he could stomach.

He immigrated to Australia in 1951 and went to work in Melbourne. For him the immigration experience was no big deal because he had already spent so many years in the South Pacific away from family. He had several other jobs before he went to work for Addressograph Multigraph. He worked his way up in that company and was very successful. Canberra was still not much more than a 'sheep paddock', having been cut out of the 'middle of nowhere' as a Capitol Territory.

However, Lou saw the future potential and tapped into a growing market with the government. He moved there and it eventually became home. He founded his own office supply company in 1969 and expanded into office furniture in 1981.

Lou maintains a close contact with relatives and travels often to visit. He loves Canberra and since all his children live there that will always be 'home'.

Murk & Jenny VanDriezum

I had another very enjoyable visit over coffee with Murk and Jenny. Their *gezellig* living room was delightfully reminiscent of their Dutch heritage.

Murk fought in the Dutch resistance during the war but eventually escaped. He joined the Dutch military and was sent to train at Camp Le Jeune. They expected to be part of the Japan invasion forces but by the time his unit was ready the Japanese had surrendered. His unit then ended up in Indonesia.

Back in the Netherlands he worked for a building company and learned the cabinet making trade. The company was struggling under the poor economy so when relatives, already in Australia, encouraged him to come, it did not pose a difficult decision. He and his family immigrated from Groningen in 1954. He felt that he had already spent too much time on troop ships so they chose to fly. Airplanes in those days made many

stops and mostly flew in daylight, and certainly not on Sundays. He remembers spending a Sunday in Singapore. It was a six day journey for them.

Murk was now a skilled cabinet maker and was invited to join the Australian Building Company in Kingston, Tasmania. At first they lived in 'klein Groningen' (see article in the June 2000 issue of *dis* magazine). Murk felt that because of his experience overseas during the war, adjustment was fairly easy. It was not as easy for the women. For them, however, there was a strong cohesive social element in



*Murk & Jenny
VanDriezum*

END OF Summer MARKDOWNS



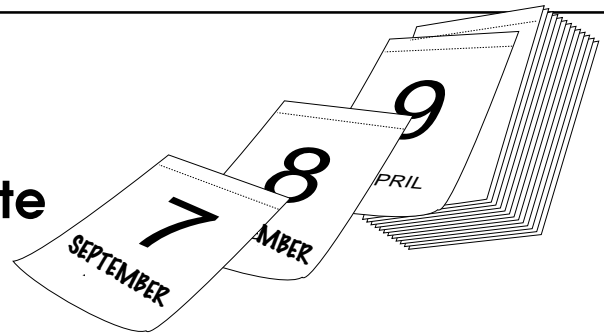
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the church and later in the Christian school. In fact, one of the factors in the decision to immigrate was Murk's conviction that the church needed him. His faith is still strong and vibrant.

The close social ties made it possible to build the church building in Kingston with mostly donated labor. This community also worked together to help build homes for each other. Murk's story sounded similar to ones we hear of the Amish and Mennonites banding together to build homes and barns. The family kept close ties with relatives in the Netherlands. Murk had sold a strip of his property for a 'right of way' and used the money to make it possible for his parents to come for an extended visit in 1957.

Despite the earlier hardships and challenges, the Van Driezums never regretted coming to Australia and feel very much at home there. Their children all live close enough to visit. They are enjoying retirement and are thankful for relatively good health.



John and Alice Rietveld with John's mother between them

The Rietvelds

John and Alice Rietveld were our hosts for a good stretch of our time in Australia. We met many of their family, from both sides, and had good conversations. John's widowed mother lives in Tanilba Bay. We drove up to spend most of a Sunday with her. It was a drive of over two hours north of Sydney through some gorgeous scenic areas. John's father moved to Tanilba Bay at his retirement so that he could pursue his hobby of fishing. At the time we visited it was still a small community but there were plans for some significant development.

Mrs. Rietveld spoke a long time, mostly in Dutch, as

she reminisced about the immigration experience. Her husband wanted to farm and since there was virtually no hope of ever being more than a hired hand, he wanted to immigrate to Canada. Canada had been encouraging farmers to immigrate as it was eager to develop and expand its agricultural potential. Mrs. Rietveld resisted vigorously as she dreaded the long, cold winters which she had heard about. They compromised and went to Australia.

Their boat ride on the *Sibajak* was five weeks long. They made a stop in Freemantle and then on to Sydney. There they were met by a clergyman who she described as being in too much of a hurry to be the help they needed. They took a bus to the train station and by train they traveled to Orange which is some distance northwest of Sydney.

Mr. Rietveld was hired on as a farm hand and did very well, enjoying the work for the most part. However, when he found out that his future at this farm was no less a dead end than in the Netherlands, he decided to seek his fortunes elsewhere. He tried several different ventures as a small business owner but despite energetic efforts, each ended up unsustainable.

The family eventually ended up in the Melbourne area where he was able to hold employment until retirement. Church involvement was always a significant element in their family. Two of the sons chose to become clergymen: John is in church evangelism development and Kevin is a missionary in the Solomon Islands.

The Peets

Bill and Truus Peet live in a suburb of Sydney called Blacktown. It is an old community but with significant new housing developments. We enjoyed their hospitality for several days - actually longer than planned because of car trouble. Bill and Alice Rietveld are siblings so that is how we made the connection. Bill made a career change from electrician to social worker.

Although quite young when they immigrated, Bill had some vivid memories of the early years of his immigration experience. They were settled in Orange. As was so often the case, few stayed where they were initially settled. The Peets also ended up in Victoria, reconnecting with other families, including the Rietvelds. The church for them was the center of social life which kept the immigrants connected until they could learn the language, culture and gain employment.



The author and his wife Diane, pictured here with Truus and Bill Peet.

The de Koeyers

We attended a worship service at the church in Tanilba Bay, and afterwards we had conversations with several people. One of them was Mrs. deKoeyer. Her immigration story was very different. Unfortunately there wasn't time to talk longer or to take notes.

Her husband's family had been oyster farmers for generations in the tidal waters off Zeeland. With the construction of the Delta Project, that industry was substantially cut back. The family's options were to change profession or relocate. The Australian coast provided excellent potential and so they immigrated some time in the early '80s. It was a good move for them.

Besides the interviews, I read several books that were valuable resources for this article. Two of them I read while in Australia but am unable to give exact titles and publishers at this time; one of the authors was Manning Clark. Two others, which were given to me are: *The Forth Ally: Dutch forces in Australia in W.W.II* by Doug Hurst, published by the author; and *A Church En Route: 40 Years Reformed Churches of Australia* edited by J.W.Deenick and published by Reformed Churches Publishing House, Geelong, VIC.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Kees Wierenga, editor of the Tasman Telegraph, which is the publication of the Dutch Australian Society. I spent a pleasant evening with Kees and perhaps sometime I can persuade him to write about his organization for us. I wish their group well.

I had conversations with many other people that we

had the privilege to meet. I wish I could tell all of their stories.

Special acknowledgment and thanks go to His Excellency, Dr. H.H. Sondaal, Netherlands Ambassador to Australia, for the honor my wife and I had to interview him at the Embassy in Canberra. Besides being a gracious host, I benefited from his insights into Dutch/Australian relationships. He provided me with valuable resources, including the gift of the book by Doug Hurst. I regret not having the time to make contact with more organizations with Dutch connections.

In my next and final article, I plan to discuss the current church scene and share what several people have expressed as the vision and future of the church in Australia. This article is scheduled to appear in the Spring (March 2003) issue.

UITNODIGING

D.I.S. Annual Meeting



Friday, October 25, 2002 7:30 PM
Kelloggsville Christian School Gym
624 - 52nd St SE Grand Rapids, MI

Agenda

Opening & Welcome - Minutes of 2001 Annual Meeting
Annual Report - Financial Report
Question & Answer Period

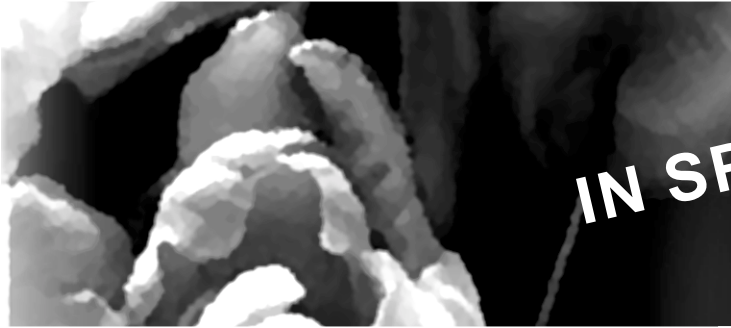
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In 2003, you'll have a choice of two itineraries. . . The **April 22 to 30** cruise meanders northward through the province of Noord Holland to Friesland and returns south through the Flevoland, Overijssel, Gelderland and Zuid-Holland.

A southern routing is featured on the **April 29 to May 7** cruise, calling at ports in the provinces of Zuid-Holland, Zeeland, Noord-Brabant and Gelderland—plus a delightful detour into Belgium. If you can't decide, you're welcome to come along on both cruises!

Both cruises are highlighted by a visit to the Keukenhof National Flower Exhibition, a breathtaking 70-acre floral showcase, and lots of opportunities to go ashore for close-

ups of the lush countryside and picturesque towns and villages of the Netherlands.

The "floating hotel" for the Netherlands Waterway Cruises is the *MPS Salvinia*, a cozy Dutch river cruiser. The *Salvinia* can accommodate 123 passengers, all in outside cabins with private facilities.

All of the cabins are equipped with a telephone, television and individually controlled air-conditioning.

The *Salvinia's* public areas, divided over three decks, include a whirlpool, sauna and fitness room on the Main Deck; a beautiful restaurant and reception area on the Promenade Deck; and a large panorama lounge with bar and a sun deck on the Salon Deck.

The Main and Promenade Decks—where the passenger cabins are located—are connected by staircase and elevator. Between the Promenade and Salon Decks, stairs and a chair lift are available.

For those who would like to see more of Europe, two optional one-week land tours are offered after each cruise. The **Alpine Adventure**—visiting Germany, Switzerland and Austria—and the **Holiday in Belgium and France** are both available from **April 30 to May 6** and from **May 7 to 13**.

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History of the Netherlands on the Web

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has created a brief account of the history of the Netherlands. The user can search for information under fifty different dates and seven separate themes. The dates have been carefully chosen to cover key periods in Dutch history. Details are given of each of them and various links can be used to obtain further information about the period in question.

You can find this information on the international homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [www.minbuza.nl/english] select 'The Netherlands' / 'General information' / 'History', or directly via [www.history-netherlands.nl].

New Dutch Government Sworn In

The new Dutch government, consisting of the Christian Democrats (CDA), the Pim Fortuyn List (LPF) and the free-market People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), has been sworn in, with Jan Peter Balkenende as the Netherlands' first Christian Democrat prime minister in eight years.

After a period of 25 years of progressive social policies such as regulating euthanasia, permitting gay marriages and showing tolerance toward soft drugs, the Netherlands has its first right of center government.

Prime Minister Balkende, 46, is a professor of economics and Christian philosophy. He entered parliament in 1998 and ten months ago became the leader of his party.

Political analysts credit the shift in public political sentiment to a backlash against immigration and increasing fears of rising crime, spurred on by the murder of anti-immigration party leader Pim Fortuyn just before the election.

Groups such as the Dutch trade unions have expressed concern over some of the policies of the new government, warning that they will strike if necessary.

Profiles of members of the new government (in Dutch) can be found at [www.nrc.nl/politiek/kabinet/index.html#top].

Dutch Economy Falters

With warnings of a deficit four time higher than last year and rising unemployment, the Dutch are bracing

for cutbacks and hard economic times. The newspaper TROUW has called proposed tax-cuts unfeasible and argues that the slow economic recovery will be the most difficult challenge faced by the new government.

Digital Detectives Catch Crooks

Amsterdammers armed with cell phones and digital cameras helped capture Bulgarian and Rumanian men dressed up as Dutch police. The men were asking tourists, mostly Asian, to help them crack a counterfeit Euro ring by handing over their money for inspection. Since the Amsterdam police force is multi-ethnic, the tourists were not suspicious that the men had non-Dutch accents when they asked for their money. Not even the French license plates on the cars driven by the alleged cops tipped them off.

However, savvy Amsterdammers walking by quickly caught on to the ruse and took digital pictures of the crooks and called the legitimate police on their cell phones.



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Beter Nederlands

door Dr. Martinus Bakker

A. Old business: As remarked before, we often receive entries and solutions from previous quizzes and assignments. Though all responses are appreciated, we cannot, for obvious reasons keep publishing these. If you intend to respond to any given activity, please do so within a month or so after publication. Thanks, Afke Doran, for your explanation of your name, namely that it is not to honor the authoress of Afke's Tiental, but simply a family tradition, dating back from the 1600's.

By the way, the word 'authoress', deserves a moment's attention. Europeans visiting the USA are sometimes struck by ladies being referred to as manager, instead of manageress, author instead of authoress, and there are probably many more. We wouldn't call a female actor an actor instead of an actress or a mistress a mister. Europeans still adhere to these distinctions and especially the Dutch always distinguish between male and female professions and other functions: a female soccer player is a voetbal 'speelster,' a female singer a 'zangeres,' a female farmer or, interestingly, the wife of the farmer, a 'boerin.' We could list scores, if not hundreds of these. From the examples you can also conclude that the endings -ster, -es, and -in are the most common endings indicating female persons. Let us know if you want us to investigate this phenomenon further. I would love it!

B. Het huiswerk -

Vertaling van de Engelse zinnen:

1. Let's go outside./ Laten we NAAR buiten gaan.
2. That's in fashion./ Dat is in DE mode.
3. When were you in town?
/ Wanneer waren jullie in DE stad?
4. I am not in favor of that number.
/ Ik ben niet TEN gunste van dat getal.
5. The children are playing in the street.
/ De kinderen spelen OP straat.
6. They are going by plane./ Ze gaan PER vliegtuig.

7. Are you going home already?
/ Ga je al NAAR huis?
8. Write that down, please. / Schrijf dat OP, aub.
9. I can't remember his name.
/ Ik kan ME zijn naam niet HERINNEREN.
10. Where are you going now?
/ Waar ga je nu HEEN?

Translations into English:

1. Hij gooit de hond met stenen.
/ He throws stones at the dog.
2. Hij zit al drie jaar op die school.
/ He's been attending that school for three years already.
3. Die dominee staat in Groningen.
/ That minister serves in Groningen.
4. Zit uw zoontje al op school?
/ Has your son started school yet?
5. De jongens lopen te praten.
/ The boys are talking. [more about this further down]
6. Woont u op het platteland?
/ Do you live in the country?
7. Je rijdt te hard. / You are driving too fast.
8. Wanneer is hij ontslapen?
/ When did he pass away?
9. Zij liep boos de kamer uit.
/ She angrily walked out of the room.
10. Waarom ben je hier niet wat vroeger mee begonnen? / Why didn't you start THIS [hiermee] sooner?

Uitstekende antwoorden zijn ontvangen van Charles A. Vandewiele, Tini De Boer [over die hoofdletter 'D' zou ik het graag een keer hebben - in Nederland is het Tini de Boer!], Kea Roelfsema, George Elenbaas en Gerry Kraayeveld. Ik ben me er terdege van bewust dat er allerlei variaties mogelijk zijn op de vertalingen. Nee, Tini, we zeggen niet 'Hij gooit stenen naar de hond.' Je kan het wel zeggen, maar het betekent wat anders. Moet de hond de

stenen vangen of terugbrengen of zo? Je verklaring 'Hij gooit de hond toch niet,' klinkt logisch, maar taal is nu eenmaal niet altijd logisch. Daarover zouden we boekdelen kunnen schrijven.

C. Hoe maakt u het?

George Elenbaas comments on the phrase 'How are you?' and its translation 'Hoe gaat het?' Are these questions to be answered or not? This is quite easily explained. Yes, both these questions need to be answered, usually with the rhetorical, 'Fine, thank you' and 'Goed, dank u' or one of the numberless variations. One is not expected though, in either language, to supply a list of all of life's trials and tribulations or our personal problems, but they are to be answered with an assumed or standard answer. That is why it is called a rhetorical answer. 'How do you do?' and 'Hoe maakt u het?,' on the other hand, are rhetorical questions, and are not supposed to be answered! Please don't say 'Fine, thank you' or 'OK' in answer to this question when you speak to an Englishman or 'Uitstekend,' or 'Gaat wel' to a Dutchman! These are phrases of introduction, used, in other words, when one is introduced to a person you have not met before - in both languages.

D. Zit niet te slapen!

Het is nu eenmaal zo dat sommige woorden en uitdrukkingen niet letterlijk te vertalen zijn, en in sommige gevallen blijkbaar haast helemaal niet. Het Engels kent een tijdsvorm die we 'Present Continuous' noemen, bv. 'I am drinking coffee,' wat heelwat anders is dan 'I drink coffee.' 'I eat fish' maar 'I am not eating fish [now]. Het geeft aan dat ik op dit moment koffie aan het drinken ben, ofwel, koffie ZIT TE DRINKEN, geen vis zit te eten, maar wel gek ben op vis. De zinnen 'Ik zit te drinken, Ik zit te eten' kunnen niet letterlijk in het Engels vertaald worden. Hetzelfde met 'Zit niet te slapen' en 'De jongens lopen te praten.' Er zijn vier woorden die in het Nederlands aangeven dat een handeling op dit moment plaatsvindt. (Engels gebruikt hiervoor de reeds genoemde 'Present Continuous Tense'). De vier woorden zijn: lopen, liggen, zitten en staan. Ze hebben dus alle vier te maken met lichaamshouding. Zij loopt

te denken, wij liggen te lezen, hij zit te eten, ze staan te praten. De Engels equivalenten zijn 'She is thinking, we are reading, he is eating, en they are talking.' Is 'She walks while she thinks,' 'We are lying down reading,' etc. geen goed Engels? Vast wel, maar zo spreken we niet terwijl de Nederlandse zinnen juist heel gebruikelijk en goed zijn. Dus kunnen we hier en nu vaststellen dat het Nederlands in dit geval heel descriptief is. 'Wat zit je te doen?' betekent haast niet meer letterlijk dat de aangesproken persoon per se zittende is maar is in het algemeen meer descriptief dan het Engelse 'What are you doing?' Het betekent haast alleen 'Wat ben je aan het doen?' of in het Engels 'What are you doing?' Nederlanders beseffen dat heel goed wanneer ze voor de aardigheid 'Hij zit de hele dag maar te zitten' zeggen.

Our story wouldn't be complete without 'something to do' for the next time. Here is a question for the philosophers among us: What is logically [not linguistically] wrong with the statement 'Same time, same place,' for example when discussing the next tennis date. [We all know what it means!]

Verder huiswerk:

Please supply us with sayings your [grand] mother/father used and which have now become (practically) obsolete - even if you don't know what it means - who knows, someone may know it. We will publish them all (I hope). Here are some examples from my own experience: 'Gooi dat maar in m'n hoedje/ pet, dan zoek ik het morgen wel uit,' 'Gooi met je traktament,' 'Wat heb ik nu aan m'n karretje hangen?,' 'Asjemenou,' enz.

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Dennis Schreur

Sint Maartens Dag - November 11

by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres

Early in November, about six o'clock in the evening when it is fully dark outside, Dutch children light lanterns and head outdoors. In poorer times, these lanterns were often homemade affairs, such as tin cans in which a design has been made with holes using a hammer and nail, or a hollowed out sugar beet, with designs carved in it, much like the Halloween pumpkin in America. Nowadays the children carry paper lanterns with candles inside. They go from house to house, swinging their lanterns and singing this little ditty, or in different parts of Holland, variations of the same:



*Sint Martinus Bisschop,
Roem van alle landen
Dat wij hier met lichtjes loopen
Is voor ons geen schande
Hier woont een rijke man
Die ons wel wat geven kan.
Geef ons een appel of een peer
Komen we't heele jaar niet weer
Het heele jaar dat duurt zoo lang
Dan is 't kaarsje allang verbrand.*

*Bishop Saint Martin;
The fame of all lands
That we are walking here with lights
Is not a shame for us
Here lives a rich man
Who can (afford to) gives us something
Give us an apple or a pear
We won't come back for another year
A whole year is a long time
My candle will have gone out by then.*

Much like trick or treaters in the United States, the children are given a treat, money, or an apple or pear.

Who was Saint Martin and why would Protestant children join their Roman Catholic neighbors to venerate this saint by keeping this tradition alive?

Martin was born at Sabaria in the Roman province of Pannonia in Central Europe (now Hungary), but was brought up at Pavia, Italy, the son of a Roman army officer. As a young man, he also enlisted and served with the Roman Cavalry, an elite branch of the military, in France. With the conversion of Constantine and the rise of Christianity, Roman soldiers were also being converted. Martin was one of these. Once, so the story goes, he used his sword to cut his cloak in two to give half of it to a scantily clad and cold beggar.

He left the military to become a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers, a bishop renowned for his theology. Later, as a priest, Martin founded several monasteries and his work became the foundation on which Benedictus continued to build. He also went on many missionary journeys to preach the gospel in the central and western parts of France. When the first bishop of Tours passed away Martin was proclaimed Bishop of Tours by popular demand. As bishop he shunned pomp and circumstance, preferring instead to live in a small monastic cell a short distance from Tours, setting an example of humility and spirituality.

He died on November 11, 397, in Candés, a village between Tours and Poitiers, and since his elevation to sainthood one month later that date became his Saint's Day. That Martin was a popular Bishop even before his sainthood is evidenced by the fact that at his death the citizens of Tours and Poitiers were vying for his body for burial within their city walls. The delegates of Poitiers argued that the citizens of Tours had

Martin in their midst as their Bishop during his life, and besides Martin's cloister was in Poitiers, at which site he would most likely want to be buried, rather than in the cathedral of Tours. At one point the Poitiers delegates fell into a deep sleep, and the delegates of Tours, seeing a higher power at work, quickly spirited Martin's body away to Tours.



He was one of the first saints who did not die a martyr's death, and one of the first to be honored with his own day. A simple chapel was built above his tomb, replaced in 470 by a Basilica. Fourteen years after his death Severus wrote Martin's biography.

France always considered Martin one of her greatest saints, but his popularity spread far beyond France and scores of early churches in the Low Countries were dedicated to him. He was, in fact, the patron saint of Utrecht, the oldest bishopric in the Netherlands, as well of many other important towns, among them Arnhem, Groningen, Middelburg, and Sneek. Martin of Tours on his fine horse and his good deeds was certainly one of the more popular heroes for the young.

In a time before movie stars and sports figures, saints were the heroes which children were taught to emulate. For many centuries St. Martin's popularity far outshone that of St. Nicholas. But he was not just a hero for the children because Martin's deed of slashing his cloak to warm a peasant set an example of charity for adults as well. In a time when the church was the only agency to help the poor, such an example was useful to hold before the people. The tradition of children going from door to door for a handout may have its roots in Martin as an example of charity, and the rich giving to the poor on his day. In medieval times it was customary to light bonfires on his Feast Day, later candles in lanterns replaced these fires.

Since Martinmas, or the feast of St. Martin, coincided with the annual slaughter of the fatted pig — a time when even the poor ate fresh meat for once — it was associated with celebration and feasting, whether

religious or cultural. A customary saying was that all winter provisions had to be *in kannen en kruiken*, or stored, by Martinmas. Mid November was also the time for cellaring new wine, and although Holland did not produce any wine, it purchased large quantities from France and cellared it on St. Martinmas.

After the Reformation, clergy periodically preached against the observation of St. Martin's Day by Protestants, but like the feast of St. Nicholas, St. Martin was just too much of a deep-seated cultural icon that the tradition continued in spite of the preaching. Although St. Martin's is celebrated with more fervor in some parts of Holland than other, it is a national phenomenon. In Marken the celebration is a bit different. There children gather in the town square and go around with their lanterns in one large group. In some areas of Friesland there is first the gathering of firewood for the bonfires. In Groningen and surrounding border areas, he is called very properly Sint-Martinus Bisschop. In the southern part of Holland, St. Martin riding on a fine horse leads the procession of children through the town. Some villages organize a walk, so that the children are safe in the dark. Other parts of the country have slightly different traditions, and children may sing slightly different songs. But on the whole, this is another one of those traditions that refuses to die in the Netherlands; however, unlike Sinterklaas, this tradition did not emigrate with the settlers to the new world.

All images with this article are from www.wetsens.org/society-nl.htm#StMa

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November 6, 1907

by Gerlof D. Homan

My father, Klaas Homan (1896-1983), was born in Noordhorn, a village some ten miles west of the city of Groningen. He was the youngest of nine children. The oldest child in the family, Fenje, was nineteen years older than he. Dientje, the second oldest, became his first-grade teacher. His parents owned, since 1878, the wind-powered grist-and-peeling mill “De Fortuin” which provided the family with a good income. This family of eleven lived in the small miller’s house next to the windmill. Part of this house dates back to the 17th century. The current owners are trying to restore the house’s original interior. In front of the house you can still see a few short posts that used to hold a chain. When the first automobile came through Noordhorn my father was so scared of this mechanical monster that he hid behind one of them!

Although my father left home at the early age of fifteen to work as an apprentice in a *zuivelfabriek* (dairy plant) in Tzummarum, Friesland, he always remained very much attached to Noordhorn and also the streak or area in which the village was located, the so-called *Westerkwartier*. Inhabitants of that area, he would always argue, were very special. He always referred to “*Het vrolijke Westerkwartier*,” “The Merry Westerkwartier.” He might have been right. When many years ago my oldest brother accepted an administrative post with the local government of the *Gemeente* (county) of Zuidhorn, which included Noordhorn, my

father was moved to tears. For him family history had now come full cycle.

My father could tell great stories about Noordhorn village life and vividly recreate some of its characters - such as Jan Bak Niet. Jan was a local baker whose wife would often tell customers her husband did not bake that day or perhaps most days. “*Jan bakt vandaag niet*,” “John does not bake today,” she would tell them. Hence, he was called *Jan Bak Niet* (John Does Not Bake).

I was introduced to the “mystique” of Noordhorn during a visit to the village in 1942 or 1943. Until that day I had heard much about Noordhorn but had never visited that village. My father and I went there that day to see the local caretaker of my grandfather’s grave. We went by train, got off at nearby Zuidhorn and walked the rest of the way. Upon crossing the Van Starckenborgh Canal we noticed an accident had taken place there earlier that morning. Two local men on a motorcycle had been blinded by the sunlight reflecting off the freshly-painted bridge and crashed into the railing. Both were killed.

The bodies were still lying in the *brugwachtershuisje*, or bridge keeper’s cabin. My father told me not to look. He remembered the family. Our visit was off to an ominous start.

But the rest of that day was memorable in a much more positive way. He showed me the windmill, their former small family



Johan A. A. van Panhuys

farm, and my grand-parents' home in which they lived during their retirement, Family history breathed upon me and has never left me since.

Very late in life my father began to record some of the events in his youth. One of the most interesting episodes concerned the terrible fog of November 6, 1907. It was on that fateful day that four members of the Van Panhuys family and their servant drowned in a canal, the Hoendiep, near the village of Hoogkerk, a few miles west of the city of Groningen. Johan A. A. van Panhuys was a member of an influential noble family and very prominent public figure in his day especially in the Province of Groningen. He was born in 1836 on their landed estate

Nienoord is located near Leek, some ten miles south of Noordhorn. In the course of his long public career Van Panhuys was curator of the University of Groningen, mayor of the city of Groningen, Commissaris* of the Province of Groningen and later of the Province of Overijssel, and vice-president of the Council of State. He retired in 1893. On November 6, Van Panhuys and his spouse Trina Looxma, his son Hobbe and spouse, Elske de Blocq van Scheltinga, traveled late in the evening by coach from Groningen to Nienoord. Because of the terribly dense fog the coachman lost track of the road and failed to see the Hoendiep. Near Hoogkerk the coach ended up in the water, tipped over, and all occupants, who were unable to open the doors, drowned. Only the coachman who sat outside on the driving box survived.

Below is an edited translation of my father's recollection of that fateful day.

Every year when the sixth of November arrives I think of what happened on that day in 1907. On that day I had to take special lessons after the regular school day. In order to be admitted to the MULO** school in the city of Groningen I needed to do some preparatory

work. For that reason I attended school in Zuidhorn. There they not only gave me a general review of much of what I had learned but also instructed me in two languages and mathematics. I walked the distance from my home in one half hour. Whenever the weather was bad my mother would give me a sandwich so I could stay in school.

It was a quiet and foggy November morning, and I was given enough of a food supply for the entire day. It did not get any better in the afternoon; the sun was now completely absent and visibility became worse by the hour. Our lessons began as soon as school ended at 3:30. I participated in those evening lessons with two girls who, like me, also wanted to go to the MULO. I noticed that the principal looked outside all the time and also at the clock. As soon as the clock struck five he stood up and immediately looked outside. When we got our bags with our books and were ready to go outside we met our teacher who said, "I hardly dare let you go home, it is irresponsible." Heavy fog clouds met us as

we walked across the schoolyard and stood on the Frankrijkerstraat.. "Teacher," I said then, "I am going because I have to take care of my rabbit and goats." Well," both girls said, "then we go too."

It was very quiet, there was not a sound and you could see nothing in front of your eyes. "It is a black and dangerous fog," the teacher said "but you have to decide." I turned around and told the two girls, "We will do what we do when we go ice skating. I go in front, put one hand behind my back and you 'hook unto' me, all right?"

We went with our bags and our books after we had promised the teacher we would move very carefully. The Frankrijkerstraat is very short and connects with the Friesestraatweg. We crawled very carefully, almost inaudibly passed the oak trees and sometimes stumbled over roots. We did not say anything to each other, but the girls held firmly unto me. We still had quite



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a distance to go. For variation we sometimes counted the trees. We could not be far from the railroad tracks, but we did not see any lights anywhere. I was perspiring all over but there was no thought of quitting.

Finally, we stood on the railroad crossing, but we did not hear a bell at the station. This meant there was no train coming. Suddenly, I saw very close to us a small light that looked like a stable lantern. I mustered enough courage and called in a firm voice, "Is that you Leegte?" Immediately the answer came "Yes, indeed." He was the father of one of the girls. "Now," I said, "here is your daughter." The man was happy to take his daughter and praised me for my good care.

However, we two had to go on. We gave each other a hand and walked in the direction Noordhorn along the so-called Zuidhomergast to her grandparents' house near the Gereformeerde church where she stayed during the week. Because of my daily walk I knew all the homes and inhabitants. To my left was the manufacturing business of Van Takkenburg, then the Catholic church, baker Zuidhof etc. To the right were the Homan family and the driveway of the Teenstra farm. But we were not there yet. The court house, the fire-and the police departments still had to come. We got closer, and I saw the street lantern. I very carefully touched the iron gate and very fortunately found the opening. Courageously, we stepped upon the lawn to the front door which was fortunately ajar. We rang the doorbell, and grandmother walked through the hallway. She received us with the greatest joy, and did not forget to thank me cordially.

I returned to the dark road to continue my journey. I passed the driveway of the Iwema farm, the Gereformeerde Church and parsonage, the custom

house, and our land and stepped into the village of my birth.

At home they were already prepared to look for me with a storm lantern. They were glad to see me back, and I had to tell them immediately of my experiences. My evening meal was ready and I could still my hunger. Not much came of studying that evening. I was overtaken by fatigue and by eight-thirty was in the land of dreams.

The next morning I heard the groaning of the churn which told me mother was making butter. When I arrived at the churn room mother told me that the Van Panhuys family had drowned in a coach near Hoogkerk. At school one of the two girls, Minke Buining, gave me a big kiss for my fatherly care. I was a little taken aback, but I was the hero of the day.

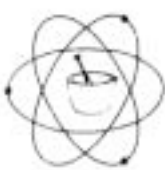
Notes

*A *commissaris* could be compared with the governor of an American state or prime minister of a Canadian province and is appointed for life by the central government

** MULO stand for *Middelbaar Uitgebreid Lager Onderwijs* or Intermediary Comprehensive Lower Education. A MULO school was about the equivalent of an American High School.

Gerlof D. Homan is a DIS member who lives in Normal, Illinois. He can be reached via email at Homan3@juno.com

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Mark your calendar for the 2002 Elim Dutch Festival on Saturday, September 28, 2002. Festivities begin with a pannekoeke (pancake) breakfast (at 7:30 a.m.) and authentic Dutch Village shops are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The food court will offer such Dutch treats as ollie bollen (Dutch doughnuts), bratwurst, poffertjes (little treats), pigs-in-a-blanket, and hutspot. Kids Carnival, petting zoo, and different entertainment acts for the whole family throughout the day. Free parking with shuttle bus service is provided. Find out more at <http://www.elimcs.org>, Tel: 708-293-6518 or email: dvanderplaats@elimcs.org. Elim Christian Services is located at 13020 S. Central Avenue in Palos Heights, Illinois, 23 miles South-Southeast of downtown Chicago.

A Good Night Kiss in Breda

by Adrienne Garbarino

Americans tend to associate romance with the automobile. Other cultures may have different ways. I recall one summer evening in the Netherlands, in the city of Breda. As I looked out the window of my upstairs bedroom, I pulled the lace curtains aside to view what was happening below on the street. It was a quiet neighborhood. I gazed out to see a clear night with lots of stars speckling the sky. Daydreams of the events from earlier in the day: a sidewalk café, shopping for a new dress, and walking through some beautiful gardens. Here comes a couple on their bicycles. A teenage couple, maybe age 16 or 17. They stop their bicycles across the street. Unaware of my perspective from beside the lace curtains up here, they lean their bicycles



against the brick house and hold each other in their arms, an embrace of youth holding future dreams. Standing beside their bicycles, they look into each other's eyes. They boy gives the girl a good night kiss before she goes into her house. Then back on his bicycle, he returns home knowing he has brought his true love home safely. A story told without words. Universal feelings observed. An American boy may drive in to his girlfriend's driveway and give her a good night kiss in his car. Or walk her to the porch steps and linger there for an embrace to conclude the evening. But I have to say there's something romantic about a good night kiss in Breda after a date on a bicycle.

Bike graphic from <http://bora.dacom.co.kr/~boonstra/bikegifb.htm>



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Herinneringen van Jan A. Janssens #10

Memories of John A. Janssens

Ik bezocht de lagere school in het dorpje Schouwerzijl in Groningen. Het was de “School met de Bijbel”. We hadden minder dan 80 leerlingen in de school, verdeeld over drie lokalen, elk met een onderwijzer: klas 1 & 2 in het eerste lokaal met juffrouw Trimpe, klas 3 & 4 in het tweede lokaal met meester Stulp en de 5de, 6de, 7de en 8ste klas in het laatste lokaal met meester Mulder die ook het “Hoofd der School” was. In klas 7 en 8 waren maar een paar leerlingen: vier, soms vijf.

Ik heb alleen maar plezierige herinneringen aan mijn tijd in de lagere school. Er zullen best minder mooie dingen gebeurd zijn maar God heeft ons geheugen wondermooi geschapen zodat de onaangename voorvallen langzamerhand vervagen en wegvallen en de mooie dingen steeds mooier worden totdat aan het eind alleen het moois overblijft in ons geheugen. Zo ook het volgende voorval dat zich uitstreckte over een goed half jaar.

Ik zat in de vierde klas bij meester Stulp toen ik op zekere morgen een heel klein briefje in de hand gedrukt kreeg van Willie, een meisje in de klas. Het was een liefdesverklaring. Ik herinner me nog het opschrift: *Lieve Jan Anne*.

Hoe het krabbeltje verder ging, weet ik niet meer. Ik liet haar weten dat ik het briefje mooi vond en de volgende dag kreeg ik er weer een. Zo ging het een paar dagen lang. Deze briefjes werden mij in de hand gedrukt als ik het schoollokaal binnenstapte waar Willie in de deur stond te wachten. Zoiets moest heel geheimzinnig gaan! Niemand mocht er maar iets van weten dat er briefjes tussen Willie en Jan Anne heen en weer gingen. Stel je voor! Dat kon enorme gevolgen hebben van veel geplaag en gesar!

Op zekere dag stonden er twee meisjes in de deur te wachten en kreeg ik van elk een briefje. De tweede was van Ella, ook een klasgenoot en een vriendinnetje van Willie. Ella schreef ook: *Lieve Jan Anne*. Wat er verder volgde, is ontsnapt aan mijn geheugen. Waarschijnlijk vond Ella dat als Willie mij briefjes schreef, zij het ook kon doen. En zo kreeg ik bijna elke schooldag

The grade school I attended was in the little village of Schouwerzijl in Groningen. It was a “School with the Bible”. There were fewer than 80 students in our school, divided over three schoolrooms, each with one teacher. The 1st and 2nd grades were housed in the first room with Miss Trimpe, the 3rd and 4th grades were in the second room with Mr. Stulp and the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades were in the last room with Mr. Mulder, who also served as the school’s principal. In the 7th and 8th grades were only a few students, four, sometimes five.

I have only pleasant memories regarding my time in this grade school. I am sure that less pleasant things sometimes happened but God has created our memories in such a way that less pleasant things fade away over time while the beautiful recollections become even more beautiful as time goes by and in the end only the best are stored. So it went with the following incident that stretched over a good half year.

I was in the fourth grade with Mr. Stulp when one morning I received a little note from Willie, a girl in our class. It was a love-letter. I still remember the heading: *Dear Jan*.

The rest of the small note I have forgotten. I let her know that I appreciated her note and the very next day I received another one. And so it went day after day. These notes were given to me when I entered the schoolroom in the morning. Willie would be waiting at the door. All this had to be done very secretly. No one should know that a correspondence went on between Willie and Jan. Just imagine! Something like that could have enormous consequences with much teasing and harassment.

Then one day a second girl stood in the doorway with Willie and she also gave me a little note. Her name was Ella - also from our class and a friend of Willie and Ella also wrote: “Dear Jan”. The rest of that note also escapes my memory. Most likely Ella figured that if Willie could write me love notes she could do the same. And so, almost every day, I received two love notes. I

twee liefdesbriefjes. Wel herinner ik me dat met verloop van tijd in de briefjes de vraag naar voren kwam of ik al besloten had met wie van de twee ik later zou trouwen. Zo gauw dat grote besluit gevallen was, kon een van de twee meisjes zich de moeite van briefjes schrijven immers besparen!

Om de briefjes, geschreven op heel kleine stukjes papier goed te bewaren, zocht ik naar een goed plaatsje in ons huis. Het beste plaatsje dat ik vinden kon, was in een siervaas op de schoorsteenmantel in de woonkamer. Zorgvuldig stopte ik elk briefje in deze vaas en was ervan overtuigd dat geen van mijn broers of zusters ze ooit zouden vinden.

Helaas, helaas! Op een rampzalige zondagavond had mijn zus, Roelie, haar vriendinnen over, vijf meisjes van 15 of 16 jaar waaronder ook Pie, een zus van Willie. Ze vonden de briefjes, de vaas werd leeggeschud op tafel en alle briefjes werden gelezen onder juichende hilariteit. De avond werd een waar feest voor de vijf ellendige meisjes! De volgende morgen, voordat Willie naar school ging, werd ze ingelicht door haar roofachtige zus en mijn moeder bracht mij voorzichtig op de hoogte. Ik schaamde me diep dat ik geen betere bewaarplaats voor mijn aardse schatten had gevonden en Willie was verdrietig en boos op mij. Ik heb nooit meer een briefje van haar ontvangen en ook bij Ella was ik uit de gunst.

Het leven ging verder zonder de dagelijkse opwinding van liefdesbriefjes.

remember that in the correspondence the question soon arose whether I had decided yet which of the two girls I would marry later. As soon as I had made that big decision then one of the two girls could spare herself the trouble of writing anymore notes to me.

I searched throughout our house for a good place to save all these precious little notes. The best place I could come up with was a vase standing on the mantel in our living room. Carefully I dropped each note into this vase, convinced that none of my brothers or sisters would ever find them.

Alas, alas! One catastrophic Sunday evening my sister Roelie had some of her friends over - five girls, 15 or 16 years of age, amongst them Pie, Willie's sister. Before long they discovered the notes, shook the vase empty on the table and read them all laughing hilariously every time a new note was unfolded. The evening took on a festive character for the five pitiless girls. The next morning, before school,

Willie's plundering sister informed Willie of their find. That afternoon my mother sat down with me and told me, very guardedly, what had happened the previous evening. I was deeply ashamed for not having been able to find a better hiding place for my secret treasures and Willie was both sad and angry with me. I never received another note from her and Ella turned her back on me as well.

Life went on without the daily excitement of love notes.

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Where in the World is Governor Vander Veen?

by Glenn Allen Vos

Editor's Note: This fictional story by DIS member Glenn Allen Vos was inspired by Ben Jansen's article "A Country Silent" printed in the December 2001 issue of dis magazine. Mr. Vos lives in Ionia, Michigan.

The Dutch customs inspector at Amsterdam's Schipol Airport dealt with a lot of Americans, but Paul Vander Veen was his first Governor. The chief executive of the state of Iowa and his wife Martha had arrived on a flight from New York in the early evening. Paul was a tall man whose eyes and hair were both gray. He wore a bluish-gray suit. Martha was a blue eyed blond dressed in a lavender suit. Paul stated the purpose of their visit as a family visit and tourism. The couple appeared innocuous and the inspector spent little time on them before closing their suitcases. He wished them a pleasant stay in the Netherlands as he stamped their passports with the date September 7, 2001.

The Vander Veens continued to the waiting room where Paul's brother John and his wife Saskia had arrived a half hour earlier. John Vander Veen was the sixth American judge in the history of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the dignified Dutch capital. The brothers bore a remarkable physical likeness, as did their wives. The two men were glad to see each other, but they came from undemonstrative stock so they merely smiled and shook hands. Saskia kissed her sister-in-law lightly on the cheek and shook Paul's hand. Neither she nor her husband had much interest in fashion. Saskia wore a blue plaid jumper and a white blouse. John wore the navy suit he had worn to work. A little over an hour later John parked his Volvo at the modest home he owned in a garden suburb of The Hague. After a light supper and some conversational catching up, the jet-lagged couple retired to the guestroom and were soon asleep.

Saskia had spent her adolescence in The Hague where her father was a Christian Historical Party representative to Parliament from the northern province of Friesland. She met her future husband at the University

of Leiden where he was studying international law and she was studying history. After their graduation and marriage she accompanied him to the United States where she became a naturalized citizen. John became a professor of international law at Harvard University. Eventually he was appointed to the World Court where he tried to steer a course between the Scylla of American national sovereignty (and American self-interest) and the Charybdis of international law.

John and Saskia took their visitors to the elegant center of The Hague and the Mauritshuis art museum on Saturday, the Grote Kerk on Sunday and the World Court on Monday morning. It was a great honor for Paul and Martha to sit in on the case being heard before the Court's fifteen member tribunal. The judges represented the major geographical areas of the earth as well as the world's primary legal systems. The current case involved a boundary dispute between Guatemala and Honduras. The representatives of those Central American countries made their statements in Spanish which was translated into French and English, the two official languages of the Court. The translators' interpretations were transmitted to the judges and spectators via headphones. The black gowned judges sat at a long table in the courtroom of the French Renaissance style building. A cascade of white lace frills called *ajabot* hung down the front of each judge's robe like a wide necktie.

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11 John had to return to work so Saskia drove her in-laws to Amsterdam to see the Rijksmuseum. The highlight of the visit was Rembrandt's masterpiece "The Night Watch." The trio went to a modest "Brown Café" for lunch. As they entered the café they noticed an excited group of customers peering up at the television perched over the bar. Paul craned his neck to see the television screen. He saw the familiar sight of a famous New York icon, the twin towers of the World Trade Center. One tower was already in flames as an airliner flew into the other tower. Although the film footage had already been shown throughout the morning, a gasp went up from the

viewers. Obviously this was not an advertisement for an action-adventure movie with impressive special effects. Saskia asked a waitress what had happened and then told her relatives about the terrorist attack. Paul wanted to return to The Hague immediately and make preparations to return home. Always practical, Saskia persuaded Paul and Martha to have lunch first. After fortifying themselves with pea soup, sandwiches and strong Dutch coffee the trio drove back to The Hague.

Paul placed two telephone calls upon arriving back at John and Saskia's home. The first was to the airline office. After learning that flights from Amsterdam to New York had been cancelled he called the American embassy where the Ambassador agreed to see him later that afternoon. When Paul arrived the embassy was in a state of high security alert. He was frisked before entering and his passport and other identification were carefully scrutinized. The Ambassador was sympathetic to Paul's desire to get back to Des Moines, but there was not much he could do about the cancellation of airline flights.

The embassy security expert was present at the meeting. He expressed concern that Arab terrorist cells operating from the German port city of Hamburg might try to kidnap prominent Americans in Europe. Arrangements were made for Dutch government plain clothes security men to watch John's house for the safety of both couples. Paul was advised to stay close to the house and not use the telephone there. He utilized the embassy's special telephone connections to call the office of Iowa's Lieutenant Governor to explain his situation. Due to the difference in time zones Paul had to leave a voice mail message.

Before he left the embassy he received the Ambassador's assurance that everything possible would be done to get him and Martha back to Des Moines.

After an evening meal of Dutch boiled dinner called hutsput, Saskia and Martha did the dishes and joined

their husbands in the book-lined living room furnished with a combination of comfortable modern sofas and chairs and antique Biedermeier tables and cabinets. The two couples watched the Dutch evening television news program which Saskia translated for the benefit of the guests. An hour later they listened to the British Broadcasting Corporation radio news program from London. Between and after the broadcasts the four Americans discussed the situation. John was quite knowledgeable about American foreign policy because of his contacts with the diplomatic community in The Hague and the other judges at the World Court. He was more aware than most Americans of the widespread feeling around the world that the United States had a seriously unbalanced Middle Eastern foreign policy.

That night Paul did not sleep well. The following day a messenger arrived from the American embassy. The messenger reported on the return telephone call from Iowa's Lieutenant Governor who said he and the Governor's staff were resisting media pressure to disclose the location of Paul and Martha. Iowans were bewildered by the absence of the couple. The citizens of the state were only being told that the Governor and his wife had left on a vacation before the tragedy and were doing their utmost to get home. The title of an editorial in one of Iowa's leading newspapers asked "Where on Earth is Governor Vander Veen?"

Since airline service had still not been restored, Paul resigned himself to living under what amounted to virtual house confinement. To help pass the time John recommended a book from the living room bookshelves. During Wednesday and Thursday Paul read *Justice and the Social Order* by the late Swiss Reformed theologian Emil Brunner. The book was a translation of the original edition published in Zurich in 1943 when Switzerland was one of the few democracies left in Europe. During walks in the garden behind the house Paul pondered both the book

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and his recent political career. Starting out as a small town boy from Pella, a community established by Dutch immigrants, Paul had become the successful owner of Iowa's largest construction firm before running for Governor. Now his party was pressing him to run for Congress. He had shown little enthusiasm for the proposal, but now something about the recent tragedy as well as Brunner's book was changing his mind. On one of his walks in the garden he decided to run for the Senate in the hope of doing something about the foreign policy crisis.

Meanwhile the American Ambassador had been in touch with his Canadian counterpart. Travel from Amsterdam to Toronto was arranged on an Air Canada flight. In the late afternoon of Friday, September 14 Paul and Martha flew out of Schipol Airport. Earlier that day they had watched a televised report on a ceremony that had occurred in the morning. Prime Minister Wim Kok and the entire Dutch cabinet placed an arrangement of flowers in front of the American embassy. Private citizens had already heaped flowers in front of the building. The ceremony was witnessed by more than five thousand people who kept a moment of silence afterward. The American Ambassador was honored by lengthy applause from the crowd. He responded by expressing his appreciation for the solidarity shown by the people of the Netherlands in the many sympathy cards already received at the embassy.

Paul and Martha flew from Toronto to Minneapolis on an American airplane. They noticed how much tighter airport security was than when they had left on their vacation. The airplane from Minneapolis to Des Moines was only half-filled. During the flight a number of the Iowans on board came to the Vander Veen's seats to welcome them home.

Elvis Lives

A Dutch musician from the group Junkie XL has brought Elvis Presley back to the top of the singles charts with "Elvis vs. JXL - A Little Less Conversation". The single incorporates the vocals from "A Little Less Conversation" performed by Elvis in the 1968 movie "Live a Little, Love a Little" and mixes them with new music and other sounds.



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Letter from Vincent

One man show by
:Klaas Hofstra



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This five voice a capella ensemble from the Netherlands begins a US tour in March 2003. Scheduled are performances at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan (March 16), Appleton West High School, Appleton, Wisconsin (March 17), Lakeland College, Plymouth, Wisconsin (March 18) and Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois (March 21). Other performances may be scheduled. For more information call 215/885-6400 or email greg@rilearts.com.

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Dutch actor Klaas Hofstra portrays Vincent van Gogh in the two act play *Letters from Vincent*. Using Vincent's letters to his brother Theo and music from Wagner, Beethoven, Berloiz, and Greg, Hoftra reveals little known facts about Vincent's life, in his own words.

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Free Dutch Encyclopedia is Group Effort

A free encyclopedia called *Wikipedia*, now almost a year and a half old, is a group effort of people around the world to compile articles about almost everything.

The encyclopedia is distributed under the GNU Free Documentation License, allowing it to be shared freely with everyone. Almost 200 people a day work on the encyclopedia, editing each other's work or expanding on existing articles or adding new ones. As of August 2002, the encyclopedia included over 30,000 articles.

The encyclopedia comes in several languages, including Dutch [<http://nl.wikipedia.com/wiki.cgi?Hoofdpagina>]

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The Billiard Club the "Carom"

We started the Carom club on September 4th, 1963. While at Tunnel Park in Western Michigan a group of us decided that we should form a billiard club. We spoke with Mr. Snook, owner of Snook's Billiard parlor and he agreed to keep one evening open for us. Mr. Arie Visser was willing to offer his basement for our first member meeting to be held on the 8th of October 1963. 15 people came to this meeting and signed up to be members. Later the total became 17. Out of this meeting a board was chosen. Mr. Ad de Cocq van Delwijnen was elected as chairman, Koos Donker as secretary, John Vander Weerd Treasurer and Arie Visser became assistant Chairman-Secretary.

It is now 39 years later and the "Carom" is still here, we now have about 55 members and this club also has become more and more international. Dutch is not the major language anymore. Although we hear Fries, Gronings or Dutch occasionally, English is the major

language spoken.

After almost 20 years on Grandville Avenue in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we are moving to 4215 South Division just south of Brann's steak house. At the Grandville address there was no room to grow and parking was poor. We will be adding pool tables in addition to our billiard tables for those of us who enjoy the game of pool also. In addition to better parking and more room, the facilities will have air-conditioning enabling us to have summer leagues also.

We meet once a week during the playing season, Monday afternoon, Monday evening, Tuesday evening, Wednesday evening. Our dues are \$6.00 a week, if you are a full time student or retired the dues are \$5.00 We have a few openings in the afternoon and evening leagues and we are planning to start a Thursday evening group. If anyone would like to become a member of the "Carom" contact Kees (Casey) Roelfzema at 616-534-5051 or e-mail to kroelfzema@aol.com. All meets are smoke free with the exception of Monday evening.

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(free will offering at both events)

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Grand Rapids, Michigan

SINTERKLAASFEEST for children ages 3-9
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2002 - 2:30 PM
HERITAGE CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
3089 - 84th Street SW
Byron Center, Michigan

ANNUAL DUTCH ADVENT SERVICE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2002 - 7:30 PM
RAYBROOK MANOR CHAPEL
2121 Raybrook SE - Grand Rapids Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS TRAVELOGUE DATE FOR SPRING
2003 TO BE ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER ISSUE.

The Rotterdam Church Chorale Choir

**We are in need of host families to
accommodate choir members for two
nights, Wednesday October 23 and
Thursday October 24.**

The choir will perform at the First Christian
Reformed Church, 8360 Cottonwood Drive
in Jenison, Michigan on October 24 - 7:30
PM.

If you are willing to help in this way, please
contact the DIS office at (616) 531-2298.

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