

## **Holland trip 1995, after the IPM Conference in The Hague**

### **6 July 1995**

We get up at 4:30 am and I walk Dixie to the 5:00 am tram. Some train problems but she arrives on time to meet Mom at Schiphol. Some train problems on the return trip also. They met me at the Congress Building at noon. Also Robert and Roswita Norris.

### **7 July (Friday)**

The conference is nearly over, and I go to Schiphol (leave at 7:30, arrive at 9:00) to get car. Too early to get the car we had reserved Opel Astra so get a Mazda 626. Nice car. Back in Scheveningen by 10:30. Mom has bunked in with us (fl. 30); worked fine. Packed up and checked out. We visit the Mauritshuis (paintings) and I go back at 1:30 for the closing session of the conference. At 2:30 we meet Mart and Mieke Jacobs, whose house we will rent in Breda. Good meeting. Left for Nunspeet by circuitous route, including Rhenen, ate at Veenendaal (too much food but it tasted good) and arrived in Nunspeet about 9. Anja is all excited.

### **8 July**

We drive through Harderwijk, Lelystad, Emmeloord, and go to the grocery store for food, including pork chops and hamburger. It is hot! Dixie buys a dress from Cobi.

### **9 July**

Mom and I go to church in Nunspeet. Some 800 out of 1800 members in church. Good sermon from a young (35?) preacher from Voorthuizen. Did not talk after church. Dixie not feeling well (asthma?). Drove to Otterlo for Kröller-Müller Museum, to Dronkelaar, and to Terschuur. Met Wim and Henny and Gerrit, had a drink and admired their new house at Hoevelakenseweg 93. It will be a big place. Back to Nunspeet for some food. Exchanged the Mazda 626 for a Peugeot 405 (delivered by the rental agency).

### **10 July**

Drove to Joure, visited *gemeentehuis* and *Afdeling Bevolking (Burgerlijke Stand)*. No Westra or Streekstra record found for 1881. Then to Uithuizen. Found Peter Wierenga (De Laan, in 't Lage van de Weg), then his father, Bernardus Wierenga (brother or uncle to Peter Wierenga in Tucson, Arizona). They are *van de katholieke kant*, a different branch of the family. Long drive back to Nunspeet, about 1.5 hours. We ate at about 10 pm.

### **11 July**

A light day. Went to Holten military cemetery, then to Palace Het Loo in Apeldoorn. Met a Wiite Travel group—they had just arrived and were suffering from heat and jet lag. Back by about 6; not too much driving today.

### **12 July**

To Amsterdam today. We planned to leave at 8:30 but it did not happen until about 9:15 or 9:30. Found VVV and free parking at Stadionplein, and tram 6 took us to the museums (Rijksmuseum and Vincent van Gogh Museum). About 2 to 2.5 hours each. Then to the

Anne Frank house and a canal *rondvaart*, and peacefully back to Nunspeet by about 10:30. Ate good lasagna and cannelloni at Pizzeria Vanedik (Turkish?) on Rozengracht. A comfortable day with respect to the weather.

### 13 July

A late start. Dixie has a hair appointment at 11, picks up her dress, and we have an appointment with Lamers in Barneveld at 3. Made it at 3:05. He seems to talk as little as possible but actually is friendly and smiles occasionally. In Nunspeet the Thursday morning market is busy. We buy a bag of strawberries (2 kg?) for fl. 5.00, some peaches, some sliced *snijbonen*, and some glads. In Barneveld also lots of market action. We walk around a bit and go back to Nunspeet for fruity supper. Hot again today-32 degrees. In Barneveld met a man (v.d. Munt, 70, in wooden shoes) who seems to know all about the Nijboers. In the local museum Dixie met the 'man-in-charge' (v.d. Burgt) who has a son in High Prairie. I also talked to some elderly men in Nunspeet (at the market) about Canada—they are interested. Free strawberries I was given had no *koper smaak*. I did not get it at first.

[Dixie] Anja's place is on a quiet street and in the morning the birds start singing before it is light outside. When you are in Nunspeet it hardly seems crowded at all compared to the Alkmaar cheese market this morning (of course there were zillions of tourists there this morning). It is hard to believe that we have been having about 30 degrees for almost a week now. This morning while driving we had a few thundershowers but by 11 it was all clear again.

### 14 July

[Bill] To Alkmaar cheese market via Markeerwaarddijk, Lelystad, Enkhuizen, Andijk. Takes a good 2 hours. Still some action, with zillions of people. Lunch at Zaanse Schans (parking fl 10.00 for 3.5 hours, entry free). Heavily commercialized, and disappointing. Back to Nunspeet via Amsterdam and freeway. About a half hour of slow traffic. Still took 1.5 hours to get back to Nunspeet. Meanwhile the cold (runny nose) that started yesterday got worse. Dixie gets better, I get worse.

### 15 July

Visited Pé and Hennie in Garderen, had lunch there, and left for Breda about 2:30 or later. Arrived Breda about 5:30 and found everything in order. Scouted for churches and found mostly RC. At least one Nederlands Hervormd.

### 16 July

Went to church. Not well attended. Middle-aged preacher—Jesus' healing of Bartimeus, by the holiday crowd. After lunch drove to Vlissingen, Middelburg, (Goes), Veere, Zierikzee, Zeelandbrug. Had pancakes and poffertjes in Middelburg. Walked around Veere—a busy place with tourists. Phoned and talked to Andy and Joan.

### 17 July

To Delft to find Delft blue. Saw *De Porceleynse Fles* and Nieuwe Kerk. Prices on nice stuff were very high. Also saw another 'blue' place, *De Pauw*. Not much in the way of

demos at either place. Drove through part of Westland and saw miles of greenhouses, also from the top of the Naaldwijk Bloemenveiling.

### **18 July**

Market day in Breda. Shopping area is like West Edmonton mall with the roof removed. Zillions of people. In the afternoon did a quick tour through Belgium countryside. Houses and farms different again. The *eet-café* in Bavel was closed and we ate at the pizzeria across Hotel De Klok instead.

### **19 July**

After a quick breakfast we left for Schiphol (Mom's departure back to Canada) at about 7:50, arrived at 9:05. Traffic busy but no stops, no *files*. Parking costly—fl. 12.50 for about 2 hours. Met Tom and Janet and Heather and Ben, on their way home. Drove through Hoofddorp, Hillegom, Lisse (no tulip fields) to Katwijk-aan-Zee and found *raadhuis*, *gemeentehuis*, and *burgemeester* Boel van Wouwe. Back at 3:30 for tea with Boel and Ineke and Alexander. They have been there only a week so far. Nice people. They gave us a map and some ideas re Zuid-Limburg. Back to Breda by about 6.

### **20 July**

It will be hot again. Left for Maastricht about 9. Drove about 400 km today. Temperature 35 degrees. Guided walk (VVV, about 1.5 hours) for two in Maastricht. Pleasant but hot. Quick lunch at V&D first. Lots of old history in this oldest city in Holland. Parked underground at *centrum*—very convenient, and reasonable at fl. 2 per hour. All automated for paying.

Stopped at a painting-restoration place, Bonnefanten museum (contemporary and old, disappointing but cool). Then east to Geuldal via secondary roads. Popular camping area. Rolling, hilly, beautiful, hot, hot. Pleasant supper in *eet-café De Dolle Leeuw in Wijlre* (small town). Traffic very noisy, though.

Freeway traffic back to Breda was light and easy, and it cooled off as the sun went down. Probably only 30 degrees now. House temperature is still quite comfortable, and after a quick shower we slept quickly and well. The head cold is almost gone now—good thing after a week.

East of Maastricht we stopped at Margraten US military cemetery—8300 buried there! One of probably 20 such cemeteries in Europe but the only one in Holland.

### **21 July**

Hot again today. Went to grocery store, did some laundry, and stayed inside all afternoon—more comfortable inside than out. We thought we might eat at the restaurant in Bavel but it was closed. Too bad! So we ate in town, across from Hotel De Klok. First we sat outside briefly, but a shower sent us inside. On the way back I turned into a one-way street the wrong way (it was dark). The first car we met was police! He politely turned us back.

## 22 July

Cleaned up, packed up, and left for Kinderdijk. We left about 10:30, returned the keys to the neighbours. Learned that overnight the shelter in the garden area nearby had been set on fire and burned down. I went and saw it—a sad scene.

In the Kinderdijk area we walked along the stream, looked at the mills—about 15 were turning— and climbed to the top inside one of them. About 4 we arrived at Terschuur, had a beer and talked for a while, then drove to Utrecht for a nice meal at a restaurant at water's edge near the Domtoren. Old warehouses where in earlier times barges were unloaded for the merchants' places above. Water's edge was one level below street level. Wim paid this time. Thank you!

Returned Hennie's rain suit and gave Wim some picture copies of Vanden Born grandparents.

## 23 July

All of us went to church in Zwartebroek. Fairly well filled. Sermon was OK but at the time of writing (5 August) I don't remember much of it. I also don't remember what we did in the afternoon. At night (6:30) Wim and I went to church again (*op de fiets*). Not as full this time. Ds. Welbedacht from Barneveld preached. Quite a good sermon. On the way back we stopped at the Terschuur cemetery on the Leemweg and looked at Oom Jan and Jaap's graves and Gerbrand's grave.

Wim phoned his mother but she was not keen on a visit so we didn't go.

## 24 July

We drove to Arnhem, saw some art, including Salvador Dali, at a show at Musis Sacrum, visited a couple of antique shops, including Peter Van Os, cousin of Robert Vanderleelie in Edmonton, and drove through Oosterbeek. Too late to go to the Airborne Museum but we did stop at the cemetery and briefly looked for the house where I boarded in 1943-44. After supper with Wim and Hennie we went to visit the van der Wejdens in Barneveld, and stayed until 12! As part of the visit we went to the cemetery where the Nijboers are buried.

## 25 July

We went back to Oosterbeek, visited the Airborne Museum and did some shopping. After supper we went to Barneveld to listen to a *beiaard* concert. Sat in the garden of Tom Lokker (newspaper photographer) and his wife, met some others, had coffee, and enjoyed the concert. Afterwards we had a guided tour of the tower and carillon (*klokkenspel*) and climbed right to the top of the tower (Schaffelaarstoren). Fascinating and interesting. Wim could hardly believe what we had been up to.

## 26 July

At about 10 we drove to Garderen to celebrate Hennie's 50th birthday. Banner and flags decorated the place. Campers had sung to her at 2:30 am. Neighbours also came. Met Tycho and friend Wanda. Son Writsaert was at work. Lots of drink and food. Had a quick look at two gift shops in Garderen. Back at Terschuur, Wim had to be a *vos* in Ede. We went to Amersfoort and shopped a bit, then to Barneveld to get some cash from VSB Bank, then to Garderen to shop and to check out the market that was to open after supper.

Bought some gifts in shop and market, and ate at a small place (*Het Smulhuis*). The market was disappointing. Drove around Zwartebroek farm areas. Rode Wim and Hennie's bikes about 3 hours.

### **27 July**

We packed up and left about 9:30, bought some nice flowers at Hoevelaken flower shop and drove to Hoofddorp. Bought gas, shopped a bit, including *zoute drop*, and arrived at Rijnsburger on time, 11:45. A quick ride to the airport, checked in in plenty of time, then a short flight to London. We had lots of time there, and Dixie volunteered to be bumped. Close to flight time we got a quote of £150 cash and £350 credit and decided to take it and stay overnight. About 2 hours later we were at the Forte Crest Hotel in nice room (but no AC in the hot weather), rested a while, went down to have dinner and then had a nice walk down the street a ways.

### **28 July**

Back to the airport on the 9:15 bus after breakfast. We could have sold our seats again, at £150 each, but chose not to. We were given Executive First Class seats—nice! Very comfortable for the 7.5-hour flight. We had phoned Joan to let her know our plans. Air Canada did not phone her till late (4 pm Thursday). In Toronto we had to wait an hour for our bags and only just made it to the Edmonton flight. Business Class again. Good but not as nice as Executive First on a 747. A thunderstorm caused a 2-hour delay but then the flight was good. Ann met us and took us home. We were tired. The flowers survived the 40 hours or so surprisingly well.