

Bob

HOW WE MET THE J. G. BAGGERMANS OF AMSTERDAM:

My son, John, and I were in Amsterdam on a pleasure trip. It was Sunday afternoon and we were scheduled to return home the next day. For lack of something better to do I looked through the Amsterdam telephone directory for people with the name Baggerman. There were three or four listed, one with the initials J. G. I called up the number given and asked if anyone there spoke English. The man who answered said that he was John Baggerman and that he spoke English. I told him I was from the States and was interested in learning something about the family name. He was friendly, so we chatted for a while on the telephone. As a result, he asked if I could visit him that evening. I told him John was with me and that we would be happy to pay him a visit. Accordingly that evening at 8:00 we took a taxi to his home, 126 Mierisstraat. It was a four story apartment and he lived on the top floor. Mrs. Baggerman, her niece, and two sons were home, as well as Mr. Baggerman. We were introduced to them all. Mrs. Baggerman could read English readily, but could not speak it fluently. The niece spoke English well. The boys knew a few words. They had a fire going in the fireplace and we all sat before it together with two dachshunds and a cat. They gave us coffee to drink and sugar cookies. It was a very pleasant visit and we described our families, and discussed the world conditions in general. When we left, I asked Mrs. Baggerman if I could send her something from the States. She said just send her a Christmas card and some photographs, if I had any. Mr. Baggerman took us

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back to the hotel in his Volvo automobile, which he drove with some abandon.

- Frederick P. Baggerman  
2/14/69.

Spencer  
1812 58

My dear Dr. Baggesen,

Remem. wishing you and your family a - see below - I take the opportunity to fulfill a promise, i.e. to give you the address of your namesake in Heaven. He is a Dr. A.W. Baggesen, Randolph St. 30, Haven. He is also on the shore, though not in the boat. His number is 03473-1438.

A merry Christmas

and

a happy New Year

We still remember your nice company and will do so always. We can not hope that you will be able to come over again in the future, so that we shall be able to meet the rest of your family. Hoping this will find you and yours in the best of health, remain, yours sincerely,

Wm. H. Baggesen  
and the boys -



Amsterdam  
21/09

69

Dear Mr. Baggenman,

Many thanks for the wonderful  
grown-up picture book of the U.S.A. which we re-  
ceived on Christmas Eve. It really is as good as  
a journey. It must be marvellous to know that  
you are part of a country and a nation that has  
literally everything. It is quite the fashion nowadays  
to talk down your own country, but we are proud of our  
own small and flat country and glad to live in it.  
How well justified is then the pride of you Americans.  
We are so glad you decided to dial our number and  
accept our invitation. You may as well know that we  
were all aflutter before you arrived. It is not every day  
that one is awaiting an unknown visitor who bears the  
identical name as oneself. But as soon as you had  
arrived all doubts banished and we now feel as if  
we had known you before. Maybe one day we may  
find that we are related after all.

I hope (hope) you won't mind my telling you a little  
about ourselves, so that if and when you visit us next  
time you will be prepared. Our elder daughter, Dorette,  
is married to a biologist doing research work at the  
University of Amsterdam. Dorette is a qualified nurse and  
worked for about 8 yrs at the University hospital here.  
Our younger daughter, Joan, is a social worker and married  
to a geographer, who graduated last month. He does not  
know what he is going to do for work. Either he may  
remain at the University for post-graduate work or become  
a full-time teacher. Our sons-in-law are very different.

Ben, Dorette's husband, is quite the biologist, tabular and  
absorbed in his work, only at ease in disreputable clothes  
and full of admiration for the achievements of science.  
Eric, Joan's husband, is very quiet, reserved even, and  
very much concerned with social and political pro-  
blems. For instance, although he already had absolved  
his military service and was then a lieutenant, he  
went up before the board for conscientious objectors to  
ask his release from military duty. He got it too.

Life is very difficult for these young people. When we  
were young, life was insecure economically. Now everyone  
is assured of a regular income etc. but life itself is at  
stake, morally and literally. Our boy, Janferbrand is  
greatly concerned with these problems. He is only 16 but  
he thinks of it almost day and night. He even developed  
a new social and - I regret to say - utopian system,  
a sort of Walden world, without money or wages,  
without frontiers or armed forces. - Originally he wanted  
to be an archaeologist - when he was 9 or 10 already. So

but I think - and hope - he will choose history. He has the makings of a good teacher and is wonderfully patient and loyal. The smaller, fairer boy is our foster son, who demands a great deal of attention. We were rather at a loss what to do about him, so now we have called in the help of people better qualified than we to decide this issue.

We are very anxious to know if you think - conditions in the world agreeable - to visit Europe and especially the Netherlands in the near future. If so I hope to be able to show you around. We should also like very much to hear about you all. With our best wishes for your wife, your children, your work and yourself, yrs sincerely

*Bill*

OUVRIR ICI / HIER OPENEN

NIETS INSJUTEN!  
GEEN ADRESSTROKEN, SLUITZEGELS, PLAKBAND, ENZ. GEBRUIKEN.  
INDIEN ZULKS TOCH GESCHIEDT, DAN WORDT DEZE BRIEF  
PER BOOT / TREIN VERZONDEN

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Amsterdam - Oud Zuid

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