

## A Dutch Christmas, Contest On Skates And Paris Trip Intrigue Student Nancy

This brings to an end the experiences of Nancy Sieber, Rotary Exchange Student in Holland. Her success in winning the friendship of another people in a foreign land is best illustrated in the following letter received by her parents the first of the year 1963.

Dear Family,  
Christmas Day and the New Year is coming to America quite as in Holland. Your Nancy is as lovely a guest as a daughter. Now three we have — Nancy, Liesbeth and Wenke, and they are laughing and working and planning all the day as if they were all born in the same house, in the same town and the same family.

So it is that we are very lucky your Nancy is here and feeling at home. So we are speaking to our friends about our Nancy.

Christmas Eve (1962) is bringing a special message. There is no distance on earth between America and Holland, Shavertown and Leewardin, because your daughter is the messenger of friendship.

With many greetings for the season.

Yours,  
Family Vegter

December 9, 1962  
Well, Sunday again, the day I like best here. We don't get up until 1 p.m., then we have visitors all afternoon and in the evening it is real cozy and we have a special meal.

Santa was here. Wednesday night from 6 to 11, I celebrated with the Kingma's because they have a little girl. From 11 to 3 a. m., I was with the Vegter's.

I received so much, wooden shoes and a gingerbread man as big as I.

Here a poem is presented with each gift. They are really terrific. I also got light brown leather gloves, green silk scarf which is out of this world, three chocolate letters, a laundry bag, a plate for tea, long woolen stockings which will feel good against the wind, pen and paper, a book of the Queen's family, Dutch Santa Claus, Xmas songs and Dutch costumes plus many more.

I was sorry my gifts from Amer-

ica did not arrive in time but I think they will understand that I will give them out where they arrive.

Yesterday was the funeral. My family is very influential and Tante Jullie was selected by the Queen to represent the women of the Netherlands at the burial, so on Saturday, Wenke, Elsbeth and I went to the neighbors and watched TV but we didn't see Tante Jullie. The burial was in white, no dark clothes allowed. Even the horses were covered with white sheets.

Yesterday we went ice skating. It looked like a picture of Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates. They skate here for distance and use long, long skates that you tie to your shoes. I practically broke my neck but managed later. It was a ball.

These folks have been so terrific and do so much for me I would like to give them something they would really like. They would appreciate cans of fruit to put in a pie. In Amsterdam, fruit sells for a dollar a can.

December 20, 1962  
Lieve Gezin,

Today was the first they had a sort of Christmas or New Year's card I could send you. They don't send them here like in America. The one I am sending shows you what I look like when I go skating.

Tomorrow is the last day of school and we sure do have a busy schedule for the holiday.

I received my Christmas packages. Just what I wanted. I will put them under the tree. The Dutch family will certainly enjoy the books on America and the Indians. It is like gold to them.

We are going to have turkey. It is terribly expensive but they want to have an American Christmas. Together we are going to fix and stuff it. Can you send me a recipe for roast turkey?

Today I made a wreath out of pine cones for the door. They do not decorate outside here and all

liked it. You can't tell it is Christmas by looking around but only by the mood of the people.

December 31, 1962  
Chris had his 22nd birthday on December 24. Birthdays are much bigger than Christmas here, the biggest of all celebrations.

We got up at 12 p.m. and had coffee and a tart as company is coming for the birthday. We then went to a Rotary luncheon and then to the church to decorate for the services.

At 4, we came home, had tea and tarts with more visitors. Then we put on evening clothes because 15 people were coming for dinner.

Then we began to eat. First we had sherry and peanuts and sat in the living room. Then at the table—the dinner with shrimp, tuna fish and herring, grapefruit with another kind of fish, salmon, smoked eel, caviar from Russia and heaven's knows what, with white wine. Next soup and crackers, with chicken and peas in red wine and for dessert, a tart, fruit, nuts, chocolate and ginger. Then to the living room for coffee with brandy (terrible stuff).

At 12:30 when the guests had gone, we set up the tree. Very big and pretty with real candles. At 2, we were finished and I brought down the presents and put them under the tree.

I was glad they were late as everyone had such a good time opening them and having a Christmas like in America. Everyone was thrilled with their gifts and thought the wrapping paper was extra special. Thank you. Then to bed.

On Christmas morning was awakened by Tante Jullie with a candle and tray of tea and Christmas bread. We discovered it was snowing and still is. They say it is the influence of the girl from Pennsylvania. All the canals are frozen and it is beautiful with people skating and the snow.

We all got up and went to church. Wenke and I took care of the children. It was fun. We came back and went for dinner at the neighbors. The girl is one of my friends and she is a noble. It was a good meal.

Then home again to open the presents. Everyone liked them. Tante Jullie wears her apron all the time. Then we went for the grandfather. He is 90. When we came back we had tea and American fruit cake. So good. Oom Jo (the father) read the Christmas story and 2 others until midnight. We went to bed on December 26.

We celebrate Christmas two days here. Got up and went skating. The Rotary Club gave me a pair of real Dutch skates. At four, we dressed for dinner and had tea at a neighbor's because their grandmother is 88.

We came back and had our Christmas dinner with one of the neighbor families in. Then we had our turkey and cranberries, but first began with shrimp and soup. More stories and then to bed.

We got up at one and packed and took down the tree. We are leaving for the summer house. It is a two story modern oblong home. One half the house is a long sitting room, one end is all windows, and a dining room and kitchen. The four bedrooms look down onto the living room from a balcony.

Everyday we walk into town (one mile) for food. It is like a fairy land. The one hotel is a meeting place and everyone knows each other. Wooden shoes and friendship. I could live here all my life.

The whole family goes together and works together. There are no maids here. Such a close family. We have a world of respect for mother and father (not like in Germany, but different). The mother always walks in the door first and everyone holds a coat for Tante Jullie and Oom Jo. I hope I can bring this back to the U.S.A., when I come home.

I have received cards from about everyone in America and the Dutch enjoy them since they don't have that here. I have so many to write to, and so little time. Will you please thank them for me?

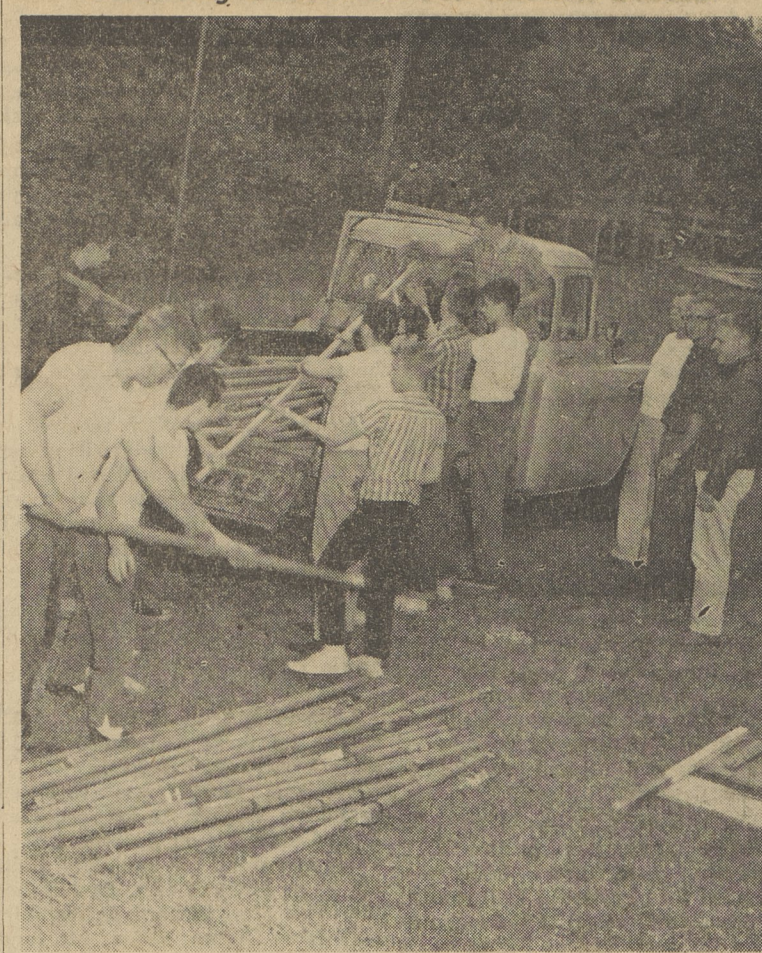
January 20, 1963  
Boy, what a week. I suppose you heard about it on TV. The famous Elfstedentocht. The whole Netherlands was living it. It started and began here in Leewardin. All the Americans came here to see it.

It was held on Friday and we all got up at 4 a.m. to see them begin. Ten thousand, six hundred and ninety people began the race and only 72 finished. Unbelievable. It was all by canals, but the ice was so bad. So much snow.

The cold and wind were terrific and the 72 who finished were nearly dead. It was 120 miles. Everyone here in Leewardin had someone staying with them. It is a special occasion in Fruesland and everyone opens their houses to everyone.

People skated until 12:30 that night and many came in with frozen eyes, ears and noses. It was so bitter cold. Most of the skaters were Frueslanders, different from my folk and rough. Usually about half finish

## Unloading Framework For Auction Booths



Members of the Key Club are expanding their Auction activities this year, moving out of the Barn into the grounds, where they are helping set up the booths and equipment under direction of Ziba Smith, grounds chairman, and George McCutcheon, Key Club Advisor.

Photo by Kozemchak

the race but this year the weather is so bad.

I made a skating trip for 10 kilometers and felt as if I had been around the world. Everyone is eating split pea soup—traditional for skaters. Yesterday we went on a sleighing party, old sleighs and big work horses pulling on the ice. Really terrific. It was held in another town where they all wear wooden shoes, and everyone stared at us in our boots.

I cannot believe I am living this. Maybe I am dreaming. It is so fantastic. Queen Juliana was at the finish point. Everyone was so interested in her, that no one cheered when the first winner came in. But then we all cheered, jumped and shouted, for the winner is more important than the Queen. I was so close to her I could have touched her. The Americans were all fascinated by her.

The cap you sent for Christmas is so warm. I wear a blouse, sweater, leotards, slacks, wool socks and snowshoes, everything to keep warm. It is so cold, but everything is so wonderful.

Love,  
Nancy

## Idetown

Mrs. David Haines and children with Mrs. West of Emerson, New Jersey spent this week with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hoover.

Miss Mildred Shaver who teaches in the Seoul American High School in Korea, is on a home leave spent the weekend with Mrs. Marguerite Shaver family of Alderson and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Shaver.

Mrs. Libbie Smith returned home on Sunday after visiting Dr. and Mrs. John Lynch of Annapolis, Md. The rosebud at the Sunday morning worship service was in honor of Jeffery Lynn son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Welch, at this same service the following graduates were honored: Joan Darby; Janice Neizgoda and Lloyd Jennings, Jr.

The installation of the officers for the W.S.C.S. was held at the Sunday morning worship service by Rev. Tiffany are as follows: President, Mrs. George May; vice president, Mrs. Ralph Welsh, secretary; Mrs. Roswell Frederici; treasurer; Mrs. Bruce Williams, secretary of spiritual life; Mrs. Hope Ide, secretary of missions; Mrs. Elisa Gillman, promotion secretary; Mrs. Alfred Hadsel, supply secretary; Mrs. Herbert Ward children work; Mrs. Kenneth Calkins, youth work; Mrs. Mary Rogers, student work; Elizabeth Cooke.

Mrs. Emory Hadsel and Mrs. Ernest Fritz were the hostesses for the serving and waiting class which was held in the church on Thursday night. Miss Ruth Worthington led the devotions and presided at the business session. A covered dish luncheon will be held Thursday evening, July 18th in the churchhouse. Others present were Mrs. Arthur Montross, Mrs. Corey Meade, Rev. and Mrs. Tiffany, Marie Spencer, Barbara Williams, Mrs. Raymond Spencer and Bess Cooke.

The beautiful vases of flowers on the altar at last Sunday's worship service were in memory of Mrs. Harold Donnelly, given by her husband.

At the same service, Penny Bonning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bonning; Richard Alan, Ellen Jane and Debra Elizabeth Park, children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Park, were baptized by Rev. Norman Tiffany.

Mrs. Elisa Gillman and Mrs. George May were the hostesses for the W.S.C.S. meeting which was held in the church social room on Wednesday night.

Mrs. Gillman gave the missionary lesson on Alaska while Mrs. May presided at the meeting. Mrs. Hope Ide led the devotions. Next meeting will be in form of a picnic supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Welsh on Wednesday, July 10.

It was decided to change the time of the W.S.C.S. from the second Wednesday to the first Thursday of the month.

Present were Mrs. Gillman and Mrs. May, Mrs. Hope Ide, Mrs. Ralph Welsh, Mrs. Roswell Frederici, Mrs. Pearl Connor, Mrs. Alfred Hadsel, Mrs. Emory Hadsel, Mrs. Dean Shaver, Mrs. Corey Meade, Mrs. Bruce Williams, Bess Cooke, Rev. and Mrs. Norman Tiffany.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Margellina entertained recently at a birthday dinner for their son, Paul. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Christ and daughters, Debbie and Cheri of Melbourne, Florida; Mrs. Mary Labar of Shavertown; Robert and Marsha Margellina, the guest of honor and his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Sampson Downey and son, Gregg, have been visiting friends in this area the past week. Mrs. Downey and Gregg came in from their home in Springfield, Ohio, after school let out. Mr. Downey has been working for his company the past two months on the addition which Wilkes College is making on its Science building.

family, but reluctant to close the final chapter on her year in Holland, her new friends and a real fairy tale adventure.

The End

## THE CONTINENTAL INN LUZERNE-DALLAS HWY.

Facilities For

- WEDDINGS
- BANQUETS
- PARTIES
- BUSINESS MEETINGS

For Information Phone 287-7588

# NOW



brings you... **NEW COMFORT**  
**NEW ECONOMY**  
**NEW CONVENIENCE**  
**IN ALL YEAR AIR-CONDITIONING**

Enjoy year-round comfort from one single, compact, modern Gas unit! More and more homeowners... all businesses... are getting all the facts before they invest in air-conditioning. If you want the advantage of clean, quiet, dependable summer cooling and winter heating, look to Gas, the modern fuel.

PHONE YOUR HEATING CONTRACTOR, DEALER OR PLUMBER  
...OR YOUR GAS COMPANY

**PENNSYLVANIA GAS**  
and WATER Company

— IN THE BACK MOUNTAIN —

Telephone ENterprise 2-0668 TOLL FREE for information and service

SWITCH TO —



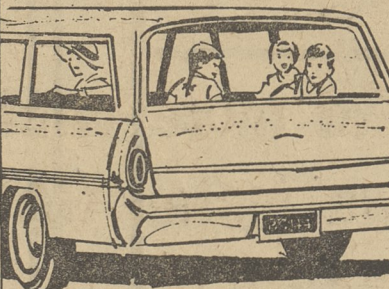
- Burns Hot
- Burns Clean
- Economical
- Automatic Delivery

**DANNA HEATING OIL**

LUZERNE 288-5563

Unless you really like sleeping in the car...

**PHONE AHEAD FOR RESERVATIONS**



It doesn't really matter where you go on your vacation. But it *does* matter what a good time you have. And part of having a good time is making the coming and going as smooth as possible. When you know your room is waiting and your table is reserved, the rest is easy. It costs so little to call and make sure your plans are set. You'll be glad you did.



**COMMONWEALTH TELEPHONE COMPANY**

## Graphic Arts Services

INCORPORATED  
PHOTO-ENGRAVING

Offset Negatives and Platemaking  
Screen Prints, Art Work

Phone VA 5-2978

Rear 29 North Main Street Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Dr. Aaron S. Lisses**  
Optometrist

88 Main Street, Dallas  
674-4506

DALLAS HOURS:  
Tues. - 2 to 8 p.m.  
Wed. - 2 to 8 p.m.  
Friday - 2 to 5 p.m.

Professional Suite  
Gateway Shopping Center  
Edwardsville

287-9735  
GATEWAY CENTER HOURS:  
Daily 9:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Evenings: Thurs. & Fri. to 8 p.m.

**GREENWALD'S**  
IN LUZERNE ONE STOP SHOPPING CENTER

FURNITURE • GIFTS • HOUSEWARE