

The Dutch once had [probably still have] a wonderful tradition regarding annual gift giving. They do it early December, not on the twentyfifth. There is a difference, another celebration, happening there.

On the fifth, they give each other gifts BUT the gift must be accompanied with a verse - a few stanzas written by the giver. He's allowed to sign at the end "Sinterklaas" or "Piet". Most importantly, he's allowed to share some insights into what sort of person you are, and how the gift will help you be a better person.

Today I discovered a shoebox with some insights from Sinterklaas that he made in the early 1950s. These were made in 1952, 1953 and 1954 by the first Dutch migrants in Kingston. One of these 'letters' is dated Dec 1953. It reads:-

Beste Rieks en Janny

Samen met mijn Pieter
Zat 'k aan het strand der zee
Ik zat maar steeds te praten
Piet schudde steeds van 'Nee'.

Wij hadden 't over jullie
En spraken tamelijk luid
Wÿ konden niets bedenken
En kwamen er niet uit

Ik zeg maar zo 'zei Pieter
Die lui die zÿn voorzien
Van alles wat ze willen
Dat heb ik zelf gezien.'

Op vrÿdagavond keek ik
Heel stiekum door het raam
Ik zag hun beiden zitten
Tevreden en voldaan.

Toen zei ik "zÿn geen kinder"
En Pieter zei toen prompt
'Weet jij niet ouwe taaie
Dat dat met twee maand komt?'

"'t kind komt in Januari
En 't is vast geen gerucht
De ooievaar die houdt dan
Een speciaal vlucht"

Dat nieuws gaf mÿ te denken
't gaf mÿ veel perspectieven
en 'k dacht "ik ga die kleine
Nu alvast maar gerieven."

Ik fluisterde met Pieter
'k vertelde mÿn geheim
En Pieter zei 'Die's voorlopig
Daarvoor nog veel te klein"

Hÿ doelde op dat kindje
En niet op het cadeau
En ik dreef mÿn zin door
En Pieter zei 'zo, zo'.

En hier is nu geliefden
't Geen ik voor jullie kocht
'k heb overal gekeken
'k heb overal gezocht.

Doch een ding wil ik zeggen
Tot Rieks dan speiaal
Indien ik 't ding voor jou kocht
Dan kocht ik een van staal

Jÿ moet het hart niet hebben
Om dit ding te gebruiken
Je mag 't alleen maar zien
en er desnoods aan ruiken

Ik hoop dat jullie kindje
Na ongeveer een jaar
't veelvuldig mag gebruiken
En dat het roept 'al kaar'. [*I suspect an I missing here*]

Dus Riekus, nogmaals jongen
Laat jÿ dat ding nu staan
Want als jÿ er op gaat zitten
Is ie zo naar de maan.

There's a lot of information in this rhyming. People living in close proximity knew each other, cared about each other and had fun together.

One important item shown is that my father was a very strong man. Secondly, this is the first public acknowledgement of my imminent arrival on the world scene, and I'm going to need a potty!

This document is a picture of a group of people who have lived the cycle of Job. Like him, they once thought that they were blessed. Life was good, but then a dark storm came, and life became bleak.

They resisted the arbitrary violence. They risked their lives and their families in the hope of a better world. Together and individually they endured the horror, the blunder and the tragedy of war. They were deprived of the basics of life and of liberty. They were abused and beaten, some so badly they suffered to the end of their days. They were hunted by a vicious political regime and brutally incarcerated. Coupled with insufficient food, absence of sanitation and hygiene, and total lack of medical care, body and soul began to separate. There were times when the prospect of being with their wives and children again seemed remote, when it was easier to imagine flying to the dark side of the moon. Some came, and not just once, to the threshold of death, and hung there on the most fragile thread, their only thought that God would make everything good for those who loved Him (but maybe not in this life).

Suddenly the nightmare was over, and the evil was vanquished. Healing was slow, but healing did come. They moved to a new land and became strong again. Tonight they would count their blessings, all their blessings, celebrate every single one of them, and be thankful because God had been faithful, He had restored to them in abundance!

This is the programme of the twentyfifth wedding anniversary of Eerke and Toni van der Laan. Peter Laning was asked to be Master of Ceremonies, and he organised his fellow migrants (not just the Reformed Church group) to join in the celebrations. This meant preparing skits, songs, plays and choruses for presentation on the night. Most presentors either took or adopted a stage name to enhance the fun.

The party began at 8 p.m. on Saturday the 12th of November, 1954. It finished the following morning at 5 a.m. Alcohol was served during the celebration, and readily available, but not to excess because the point of the evening was to celebrate, to enjoy each other's company, to make and have fun, to sing and perhaps to dance, not to sit and drink. There was one variation to the program related to me - the English language verse to be sung by a local girl wasn't sung - she hid under a table, overcome with shyness. Eyewitnesses still alive at the time of writing (January 2018) claim that most participants made it to church at 9.30 a.m.

NB - the name of the tune for most of the songs is indicated. A Google search will give the tune to the reader.

**FEESTPROGRAMMA
ter gelegenheid van het
SILVEREN HUWELIJKSFEEST
van
EERKE JACOB VAN DER LAAN
en
TONI AUGUSTE BANDHOLZ**

Kingston, 12 November 1954

The bridal pair charged P Laning to invite people to the celebration of the 25th anniversary. It was to be held in the Second Workshop in Little Groningen starting at 8 o'clock.

Page one of the document has various line drawings and is labelled 'attributes from Dover'

Amongst the illustrations is a lobster, a smelly work boot, an octopus, a hand of 5 cards, a lead sinker, a paint brush, a paint tin, a fishing hook, a plate heaped with steaming food, a draughts board, an overfed person resting and an angry face challenging the offer of more sliced beans.

Page two is blank.

Page three is headed PROGRAMMA

21 items are listed. A further ten items are listed on **page four**, and the final four are listed on **page five**. (a total of 35 presentations)

1. Opening by the Reverend, the Minister Y van der Woude
2. The welcome song is Psalm 103:1 (see **page 9**)
3. Speech by the Master of Ceremonies
4. Speech by Wieger [*only son*]
5. Publicising the rules of the celebration
6. Opportunity for speeches.
(Should the urge be missing, this item will be re-scheduled to after the meal)
7. Presentation and swearing in of the Gin officials
(Those of the blue knot receive priority!)
8. Pledge; after which we sing Song no.1 (see **page 10**)
9. Community singing celebration song No.2 (see **page 11**)
10. The goss of the ABC
(graphically presented by Bart) [*Folkerts*]
11. The famous Trio Didy-Janny-Dineke [*Didy Storm, Janny Wierenga, Dineke Laning*]
(also called Kees) stand in the footlights with "The model commander".
12. Community singing "Dover reflections"
(see **pages 12, 13, 14**)
13. The "Children of the Organ Master" ask for your attention
14. Hannes en Driekus receive a suckling [*all performers have been given stage names - Hannes is and Driekus is Rieks Wierenga. The suckling refers to their newborns.*]
(Brought to you by Didy - Jo - Janny W and Kees and Joop) [*Didy Storm is the mother of Joop, Jo is, and Janny Wierenga is the mother of Kees*]
15. Importance song (see **pages 27, 28, 29 ,30**)
16. "Tukker" !!!
(If there are guests who have brought their own sandwiches and coffee they can enjoy those in the fourth workshop. Please enquire with the head painter)
17. Accordeon! A happy piece brought by a happy girl - Hanny Mus
18. Personal song - dedicated to the bridal pair, by Janny and Piet. (*Janny v Driezum ?*)
19. "The Sentry" presented by F Kroon Sr.
20. "The Travelling Pantaloons will be raised by the now famous duo Mus.
21. Come and have a look! - solo by several ABCers (see **pages 15 to 19**)
22. "A close shave", Tragedy in a business, by André and someone else.
23. Sometimes you hear something, sometimes you see something
(dedicated to all the Directors of the ABC, see **pages 20, 21, 22**)
24. "The Travel Club Outing" relate their adventures in song - by the Dutch flowers of Kingston

25. "The Marriage Dispensing Machine" - Tender love and happy youth !!
26. Birthsong - see **page 24, 25, 26**
27. "Lively Comedy"
 Character piece played by the strong Guus - Sik - April - Wik and Dik
 (*Guusje van der Laan, eldest child, one of the Sikkema's, April is a local lass*
 (see **page 17**), *Wik first appeared at item 4, above, and Dik is*)
28. "On the bad road"
 (by Joop - Didi - Dineke)
29. "Angels" (fast and smart by Bart and Jim) (*Folkerts and van der Molen?*)
30. "Kleptomania" -
 brought to you by Lams, André and Piet.
31. "The Pierewieters of Kingston" (*bird song singers*)
 - The principal purpose of this evening! -
 The celebration committee have made a huge effort to obtain the services of
 the world famous conductor of the "Pierewieters of Kingston", Mr. Cornelianos du
 Overeemos (*Cees Overeem*), and he is prepared to give a performance tonight with
 his famous youth choir. They have just this last week finished a jubilant tour
 through Europe and the Scandinavian islands.
 The choir comprises:
 The conductor, Mr Cornelianos du Overeemos, also known as Big Peter
 The lads:
 Little Luitje also known as L.P.M.L (*little Lukie - Luut Scholma, a big man*)
 Geertje Mus, hoarse tenor (*Gerardus Mus*)
 Young Schut, heavy bass (*Jetze Schuth*)
 Storming Joopie, alt (*Joop Storm*)
 Little Wigger, rising tenor (*see item 4, above*)
 Tommy Moustache, saffron bass ('soprano bass')
 (*Tom Steen - liased between MI5 and the Dutch Resistance, always had a*
moustache)
 Little Rieks, solo whistler (*see item 14, above*)
 Driessy Murk, Saffron (*Murk van Driezum, 'soprano'*)
 Wimmy Sik, open window singer (*Wim Sikkema*)
 Jackie from the Dam, sometimes alt, sometimes bass (*Jack van Dam*)
 Picky Kroon, mezzo saffraan (*Ferdie Kroon, mezzo 'soprano', a fastidious*
joiner)

The following items will be presented:

- 1 Introductory song
- 2 Overture "The Spaniard"
- 3 Youth idyll
- 4 Gondola of the Venetian
- 5 Animal song
- 6 The song of the sleepy Gypsy girl
- 7 The murder of the cou cou
- 8 Rieks whistle
- 9 Madeline of Indonesia
- 10 Closing song
- 11 Song of the bad luck hour

32. "The absent-minded Prof", with Murk in the leading role;

- including Didy and Janny
33. Gymnastics demonstration K and V 1900
(*the groom was an excellent gymnast, a candidate for the 1940 Olympics*)
34. Johnny from Ijselsteijn
presented by the Duo Mus
(*a party classic - a 'front' person shows head and feet to the audience, their hands belong to a second person hiding behind and covered with a large cloth*)
35. Closing song (See **page 33**)

The program will also include recitations, jokes and the like by the gentlemen
Steen - de Haan - Pinkster - van Betlehem - van Herweijnen - Mosterd and de Vries.

The gentlemen Slot and Balkema have declared they are prepared to sing a duet.

Proverb:

Immoderation is Bacchus' pillow.

Y v.d.W.

page 6

Proverb

Guests who attend this celebration
Make sure they go home sober.

E.P.

Proverb

Every guest drinks as he has been taught at home.

G. de H.

Proverb

The person who allows the whisky to flow
Was better not to come.

F.K. Sr

page 7

Did You Know that ...

- 1st this evening is to honour Toni and Erik
- 2nd it is totally necessary to appear at the table with a sunny disposition
- 3rd that it is necessary to maintain your sunny disposition to the end of this celebration
- 4th there is plenty of time after the party to grumble
- 5th grumblers, mopers, angry faces, hagglers, mealy mouthed, trouble makers and complainers shall be thrown out in the quickest possible fashion
- 6th it is forbidden to 'do something' or let it be done without approval of the master of ceremonies
- 7th it is strongly forbidden to discuss who is amateur and who is professional

- 8th this evening we only want to be happy and thankful and not discuss business, let alone about ceiling joists, studs or tails?
9th this evening no church builders may be selected [*rostered for duty?*]
10th it is compulsory to speak English this evening
(*although almost the entire program is in Dutch - exceptions are typed in Trebuchet font*)
11th things that happened before 1929 to the bridal couple may not be brought up
12th the Master of Ceremonies expects all guests to work with him to increase the party atmosphere
13th speaking about going home before the end of this celebration is NOT permitted
14th attention to details as given by the Gin officials is necessary

page 8

- 15th it is not permitted to use the following common sayings:
a let's be serious, folks
b bugger, I've lost my hook and sinker again
c I'd like to move straight through
d that's work for fools
e O, I can get on well with him
f I never get tired
g Yes exactly, that's just what I was going to say
h They want to work me to death
i Bosses, families and their brood live In "Little Groningen"
j A Boon that you can cut is a sliced bean
16th the Bridal couple sincerely hopes that we shall amuse ourselves extraordinarily this evening
17th the Bridal couple have asked me to not let the evening get too late and definitely finish before eight o'clock tomorrow morning (*it finished at 5 a.m.*)
18th the feast can begin now?

On behalf of Toni and Eric

P Laning

Kingston, 12 November 1954

Proverb

If there's lots of wine in the chest
the marriage bed is ruined.

E.J. and T. v.d.L.

page 9

SONG OF THANKS

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way

With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Psalm 134 : 3

The Lord bless you in His great love
From Zion, from His throne above
Heavens and earth He did create
Hallelujah ! Our God is great.

Psalm 103 : 1

Bless the Lord, my soul, bless your Preserver
Let all within me praise His Name with fervour
My soul, forget not all His benefits
O bless the Lord, Who pardons your transgressions
Who heals your illnesses in His compassion
Who saves you and redeems you from the Pit.

page 10

CELEBRATION SONG No 1

This song has sprouted from the brain of one of our “pioneer women”, Janny van Driezum.

Advertisement

Do you like mountain climbing?

Be introduced to this sport by an experienced climber and bushman.
Years of experience in the mountains of Dover.
Ring or see

BOOKLY RIEKS

Tune: Waar de blanke top der duinen (*a patriotic Dutch song*)

Now that we are here together
With the bridal pair Vanderlaan
Together we wish them
Happiness on their life's path
Happily celebrating their marriage feast
That cheers us the most
Married for twentyfive years)
There's never been any regrets) 2x

May our Lord give you
Many more years together
And give you good health
Amongst your children
They happily celebrate your marriage feast
That cheers us the most
Married for twentyfive years)

There's never been any regrets) 2x

When we return to our homes
We remember this day
Hoping that we can celebrate
Your golden anniversary as well
That cheers us the most
Married for twentyfive years)
There's never been any regrets) 2x

(mock advertisements are standard in booklets like this. they usually refer to a characteristic of the 'advertiser' or to an incident in the recent past which generated embarrassment for the 'advertiser' and great mirth amongst his colleagues)

page 11

CELEBRATION SONG No 2

Tune : Jamboree

All of us together want
To present a joyful song
To honour the bridal pair Vanderlaan
We let our song echo
And raise a glass to them
While we remain standing
We wish you many more years
In prosperity and peace
Then we will together enjoy
The golden anniversary too.

Refrain:

Sing a song, sing a song
Whether you're a carpenter or painter or not
Sing a song, sing a song
Whether you're a plumber or not.

Advertisement

HOME BUILDING ?
Call "Wulm" quickly !
Quick and good value !
More quick than good value !

(possibly Wim Sikkema, but he didn't start working on his own account until 1959, and then in partnership with Ab Sturing)

SUPPORT SONG No 3

Tune: Schep vreugde in het leven (*bring joy to your life*)

't was enormous, 't was beautiful
Boy oh boy, such resolution
So loud and so powerful
That was no dumb applause
Tribute for such great talent
Tribute for such a fine gent
So short and powerful
Is enough to make us content.

page 12

Dover reflections song

Tune: Daar bij die molen

1. I know a village on a bay
A village called Dover
It lies peaceful and beautiful
A village I can never forget
We work there from early to late
Right through the day
And in the evening towards dinner time
The whole choir sings:

Refrain:

't will soon be over, that Dover, Dover
I want to go to my wife, I want to go to my treasure
That Dover, Dover, we'll get over it
't is good here, but it is not my thing.

2. We throw the hammers down
And run to the shed
'cos after a shower we know
The best part will come
And Fats de Vries and also his wife
(*a play on the cook's name Dick by dropping the 'c' - the result means fat*)
They worked us out
'cos just as we sat down
The chorus would begin:

Refrain:

We're hungry, very hungry
Are there balls in the soup today?
We're hungry, very hungry,
Quickly bring those balls and the soup!

3. After such a regal meal
We were quite larger
Our energy was restored
and we were spritely again,
That naturally came from the custard
And from the ballsy soup
The pans had been emptied
So the troop cried out!

Refrain:

There by the trees, there by the trees,
Is the eel which I love
Let's not hesitate, the eel of dreams
Lies waiting for me, and also for you.

4. The old faithful Hudson car
That brought us to the creek
It is a wonder that this wreck
Never failed
It shook and it rattled
When climbing up the road
And when it was downhill
It almost killed us.

Refrain:

There by the creek, there by the creek
Is an eel the size of a flue pipe
Give me a go, I'll give you a tug
And I'll hoik you in one pull out of the mud.

5. We sat on a large tree
That lay in the water
A glowing cigarette stub
Was all you could see.
We had regular nibbles
But not from fish or carrion
The blind mosquitoes there
They bit something terrible !

Refrain:

The blind mozzies, the blind mozzies,
They're hungry, they've gone crazy,
The blind mozzies, the blind mozzies,
They bite your head and in your neck.
continued next page

6. When it was about nine-thirty
We stopped messing about
ONE eel amongst nine men
That was the entire catch
We went back to the shed
Happy and content
That mass of eels in the creek
We didn't take with us.

Refrain:

Give us some coffee, give us some coffee
O Fats de Vries please, we are so thirsty
Pour us some coffee, pour us some coffee,
Pour some coffee in our dried out chests.

7. When our thirst was quenched
By Fats, the best fellow
We played a hand of bridge
We were not sleepy yet
When the clock struck quarter to eleven
Then Fats said real loud:
Will you guys please go to sleep
Or I'll turn the lights off.

Refrain:

That wonderful Dover, that good old Dover
What a lot of noise we made there
That wonderful Dover, that good old Dover
Where the food tasted so very good.

8. When it was sort of eleven o'clock
We all went to bed.
With energy and passion
The place was turned upside down!
The blankets flew about
The "pillow fight" caught on
Till everything lay on the ground
Then we could go to sleep!

TO BE SUNG BY FATS DE VRIES, LOUD AND STRONG:

Refrain

I say you wild fellows, are you going to sleep
'cos our children are screaming from worry
Knock it off now, or I'll make you pay
And give you something to think about.

Proverbs

What hangs in the rafters doesn't go off.

F.K. jr

Better a day with the A.B.C.
than ten in the slammer.

W.S.

page 15

O come and have a look !

(This song arose from events from the recent past)

Tune: O kom er eens kijken

Wat ik in mijn schoentje vind

(A Saint Nicholas song - Come and see what I found in my shoe)

BRIDEGROOM (singing anxiously)

O come and see what has bitten onto my fish hook
A terrible monster, with sharp teeth
Eight legs all in one loop
It is an octopus

The beast that wriggles and squiggles so bad
It goes through my bone and marrow,
O come and see, what has bitten onto my fish hook
A terrible monster, with sharp teeth.

FERDINAND (singing with a filthy face)

O come and see what's in my shoe
Lots of cow poo, all _ _ _ _
A whole handful of cow dung
It's dark and sticky and smells so wierd
Three cow balls in one shoe
You shouldn't have done that!
O come and see what's in my shoe
No wonder the shoe no longer fits!

ALBERT (singing very anxiously)

O come and see what's under my blankets
A very strange creature with a crazy face
I am so scared and I'm frightened
I've never experienced anything so wierd
Such a horrible monster, this crayfish,
O come and see what lives under my blankets
A real strange creature, it is a red lobster!

page 16

BRIDEGROOM (singing surprised)

O come and see what's wrong with my razor
I've already tried five!
I cut and scratch my chin
These razors are so dull
Who's played with these razors?
Who's taken their edge off?
O come and see what's wrong with my razors
I've already tried five!

WIEGER (with a surprised face and singing loudly)

O come and see what's happened now
Car full of dents, running board damaged
The bumper gone and the wheel broken
The doors all crooked and the front just scrap
O boys, what a burden
The battered Holden wasted
O come and see what's left of the Holden
Everything bent, everything ruined.

BRIDE (singing helplessly)

O come and see what I've discovered in my bedroom
All courtesy of a hole in the skirting
A mouse with a long tail
That runs so quickly through the room
O daddy Kroon come quickly
And shoot it dead with your gun
O help me please 'Kroontje' I'm home all alone,
Me and young Nicky and the dirty mouse! (*Nicky was the youngest child*)

page 17

APRIL (sing cheerfully and happy)

O look on the beachroad, who is driving that motorbike,
It is a Dutch boy, that's what I like.
He's marvellous and he is beautiful
It seems to me he is wonderful
He's handsome, I want to be his wife,
For now and for all my life!
O look on the beachroad, who is riding that motorbike
It's Dutch boy Wieger, that's what I like.

JOPIE STEENHUIS (singing with a saintly and lucky face)

O come and see what I have in my hand
A real nice letter from a very nice girl!
A letter from Ansjie, dear girl
She writes that she loves me tenderly

My nose and cheeks go red
My heart weighs more than lead
O come and see what lies in my hand
A real nice letter from a very nice girl.

GEERT MUS (singing angrily)

O come and see what's happened to my garden
The cabbage is ruined, the leeks are shot
The whole field is ploughed over
I sweated so much for that
It is a mess, a wilderniss
But I know who the "cardriver" is
O see now that garden, leeks lying all about
That battered Holden, driving like crazy!

Mr and Mrs DE VRIES from Dover
(singing helpless, hopeless and unsaveable)

O come amd see, what a mess in our house,
It's A.B.C boys, what a burden
Pushing and shoving, and talking loud,
When the clock strikes eleven
We are often at our wit's end
And walk out on them
O boys please cut it out, or I will turn the lights out
Go to sleep and stay quiet!

BRIDEGROOM (singing with a painful face)

O come and see what's stuck to me face
Cheeks full of blisters and my nose gone white
My eyes are swollen and my lips are blue
It comes from Benzine which burns so quick
My wig is like a stubble field
Benzine explodes violently!
O see my head now, what a silly look,
It's full of blisters, it's so frightening!

WIM SIK (singing happily the shocked)

O come and see now, who's sitting in my jeep
With eleven men I can go for a drive.
A car comes suddenly from the left
I cannot brake, I let it go
A hard shock and then a scream
Tom Steen has a cut in his cheek.
O come and have a look, see what has happened
Tom's pants all torn and a tear in his cheek!

TOM STEEN (singing with pain)

O come and see now, what's in my backside
A four inch cut and a knee out of joint!
A sock full of blood and the pants all torn
How has that happened now?
O Elsje, my Elsje, come quickly now
I'm almost fainting from distress!
O come and see what's in my backside
A real deep cut and my knee out of joint!

Advertisements

"How to make friends and good relations"

A book chock full of good advice
Should be in every family.

KINGSTON DAILY PAPER

The writer: Jan van Dries (*John de Vries*)

wanted: GOOD WEAPON or
STENGUN, with buckshot, for short
distances. Offers to P.L.

A GOOD GARDEN decorates your
house. Therefore go to

KINGSTON
PLUMBER
COMPANY

TAKE YOUR VACATION

In beautiful Dover

fat soup in full bowls

There is always more food

Hotel "The gilded Colander"

Running water (also on the bed)

Plenty of ventilation.

Please contact

the guarantor:
DIRK DE VRIES

Proverbs

Better to work hard than suffer face burn.

E.J.

Guests who drink early are for the cat

K.S.

Proverbs

If you mirror the A.B.C
your reflection is gentle

J.B.F.

If you build high, you can fall far.

J.TH.S.

Proverbs

When the need is greatest,
the wages packet is nearby.

D.G.A.L.M.

Saw the wood while it is still wet

J.SCH.

YOU HEAR SOME THINGS

and see some things.

(This song germinated in the small brain of an 'amateur' who
aims to imitate NO-ONE in bringing this to the stage)

REFRAIN:

You hear some things
You see some things
But I know nothing.
You know some things
You think some things
But never talk about them.
You look for some things
And you make some things dirty
But that doesn't bother me.
You can't ask me anything
'Cos I know nothing.

1 I went and emigrated
Myself and my family
'Cos Holland was too small
And had gone mouldy
And wife and I and all the kids
Came here to Kingston
We wanted to be close to our own
Who were already here.

Refrain

2. I am with the A.B.C.
Which is doing good business
This firm builds schools and the like
They can make 'em pretty good
But what is a bit of a bother
You would never believe
In Holland I had only one boss
And here I've got seven!
Refrain
3. One of the bosses is van der Laan
He's talked about a lot
'Cos teaching carpentry to him
He started far too late
This man was almost fifty years
He would never get the hang of it
'Cos this old man only understands
Empty bags. (*he worked for an industrial bag maker for produce prior to migration*)
Refrain
4. Ep Pinkster is the second boss
He also fails to click
'Cos as a Foundation director (*Foundation 1940 -1945*)
Was never a carpenter.
He has never seen a hammer
And he couldn't saw at all
They also often say this is one
Who always knows better.
Refrain
5. The third boss is Geert Haan
Here he's called the 'contractor'
He ways about three hundred pound
And that's an important factor
He therefore has a lot of influence
Over personnel and business
And it's often hard work
To make it to his standard.
Refrain
6. Jan de Vries is also discussed
He's also one of the bosses
But Jan doesn't care for chatter
He lets them babble on
They said "what's this fellow doing here
He just doesn't fit in
He'll never be a builder
He belongs with his cigars. (*He was a tobacconist prior to emigrating*)
Refrain
7. The painter has improved his lot

They say he is so handy
In this specialised trade (*painter*)
He is quite independent
He is, if you will, a double boss
You could put it like that
It's therefore a bit stubborn
That he can often _ _ _ _

Refrain

8. The sixth was a bureaucrat
In military matters
But that was never high enough
You get that with these guys
They say he has no fear of heights.
On the ledge I also stood
They saw him working once
At least two feet off the ground.

Refrain

9. The seventh and the last boss
That amounts to very little
'Cos every body says that they
Gotta pee for him.
He also has a big mouth
It's a real worry
He often makes it too silly
Especially when he's moody.

Refrain

- 10 That's how my bosses in the A.B.C.
With their peculiarities
But I've only told you stuff
What other people say
I say nothing, I don't like that
I'm up to here with chatter
When a team works **without a boss**
You will hear a few things!

Refrain

Then you sow this, then you sow that, some people are always something.

L.P.M.L.

Proverb

East West, in Kingston it's also best.

J.D.V.

page 23

AFTER 25 YEARS

They were a couple after just a few hours
They whispered softly and kissed

The Bridegroom forecast with a laugh the future of the Bride.

Refrain:

After twenty five years
I will still love you
Even if we have grey hair
We will stay young at heart
After 25 years
We will come with our kids
For a feast with each other
WITH THE SILVER PAIR
After twenty five years.

The happy forecast came true
They became the silver Bridegroom and Bride
The man gave his Bride a ringing kiss
And said the same as then:

Refrain

After twenty five years
I will still love you
Even if we have grey hair
We will stay young at heart
After 25 years
We will come with our kids
For a feast with each other
WITH THE GOLDEN PAIR
After twenty five years.
Proverb

If you sow loud noises, you will harvest chips.

A.v.R.

page 24

BIRTHSONG

Tune: I lost my heart in Zierikzee

- 1 A young man and also a very young woman
Lived in a big city
Neither of them was satisfied
They had not had children yet
But on a night (it was so very dark)
van der Laan said to his wife
"I say, wake up, listen carefully!
There is something on our roof."
2. When, all shivering, they came outside
van der Laan said "That doesn't seem silly!
There is on top of our chimney

A stork, with a child in it's beak!"
The old fellow cupped his mouth with his hands
And quietly called out:
"Hey stork, you can drop that baby now
The chimney has just been cleaned!"

3. The stork let the boy fall suddenly
The couple heard a loud thud
And when they got to the best room
There was a ten pound three ounce lad.
They said "O Wow, isn't that great,
This is an exceptional fellow
His name will be Eerke Jacob."
4. He grew fast, he was a little darling
And was so intelligent
After three months he already used the potty
And washed himself, this sturdy fellow.
After five months he ran like an antelope
But that was not fast enough for him
And after eight months dad had to buy a bike
Yes, he was wonderfully early.

page 25

5. After twelve months this lad could read well
He yabbered like a lawyer
There were hundreds of boys who feared him
He was the strongest in the street
He went to school, he was only two years old
Passed through all the classes swiftly
He always had eleven and twelve on his reports
The teachers couldn't keep up.
6. He grew to the joy of his parents
He got into sport real young
He won lots of prizes and medals
Some as big as a plate.
At work he was always the best
Early to rise and late to bed
The spare time inbetween
He shared with a girlfriend.
7. He had lots and lots of girlfriends
Before he saw Toni Bandholz
After which he didn't rest
Until she was in his strong arms.
They quickly planned a wedding
And after the ceremony
Enjoyed the delights of newlyweds
Eating nothing, but snogging lots.

8. The industrial bagging business in the north of Holland
Kept him busy for a quarter century
And when the started on the half century
E.J. said "It's time I was gone.
Thanks for the memories, I wish you all the best
You've learned plenty from me.
Now, I'm sad to say, but the next quarter century
Is reserved for the A.B.C."

page 26

9. The A.B.C. was born in Holland
It was only a concept child
The seven fathers were up to their ears
Nurturing that child, such a delicate thing.
Lots of people came to check her out
And sadly shook their heads from side to side
They whispered "It won't be long now
Before that lamb ceases to breath."
10. The child was carefully taken up
And swiftly brought to Schiphol
There it was taken by K.L.M.
In the tender care of two of the seven dads
They flew over mountains and seas
To Abel Tasman's beautiful country
Where the child grew and is now satisfied
That there is no longer any cause for worry.
11. The child has now, thanks to her dads and guardians
Grown up to where it now is
The child is very thankful for all who nurtured her
She doesn't know how many there were!
She is now almost fifteen
And she hopes to reach one hundred
As things are she'll make that
That will probably be attained.

Proverb

Better a bang on your thumb than ten in your eye.

E.J.

page 27

Advertisement

FOR SALE. QUICK. HURRY NOW! A Hudson car in very good condition, 6 seats in the back, 4 in the middle and 4 in the front; 4 standing places (open air). Large boot on the back. Nice loose steering wheel, supple brakes, very good ventilation under, above and on the sides. Mixed lubricants, fifty-fifty. Easy terms !!!

Ask at the A.B.C.

IMPORTANCE SONG

This song is sung STANDING

Tune: Wie in Januari geboren is

PROFESSIONALS

Us fellows in the building trade, ja ja
We make building easy, ja ja
Without us it wouldn't happen
The A.B.C. couldn't exist
Oh no, oh no, oh no ! (2x)

AMATEURS

Listen to those braggards, oh yeah
'Cos without them it wouldn't happen, ha ha
Your amateurs are not so silly
We're with the A.B.C.
And there's not enough of us! (2x)

JOINERY

Us fellows from the joinery, ha ha
We laugh about those building guys, ha ha
We make doors and window frames
We shape and make it straight
Our work is integral (2x)

PAINTERS

We are the people of the painting profession, ja ja
'It's a smear here and a dab there, ja ja
The 'near enough' of the builders
Disappears under our brush
We need to do too much! (2x)

PLUMBERS - and those who once were:

We fellows of the lead pipes, ja ja
'It's a turn here and a squeeze there, ja ja
We sometimes smell quite rich
It comes from the grease and sulphuric acid
But you get used to that! (2x)

ALL THOSE WHO SWING OR SWUNG THE PICKAXE

Us fellows of the pickaxe, pik pik
We work ourselves to the bone, pik pik
We hit so hard and do so much

The dust and grit hurt our throats
We're so tired we seem yellow ! (2x)

CONCRETE TEAM

Don't forget the concrete team, no no
Shoveling and levelling, ja ja
Without us you start nothing
You can't earn from our labour
We don't work for nothing! (2x)

LANDOWNERS - MINISTERS - INK COOLIES
ARCHITECTS OR THOSE LEARNING
CIVIC ENGINEERS (WATER)

We men of healthy understanding, ja ja
The whole country rests on us, ja, ja
We are smart intellectuals
There are not many of our type
We are sometimes very formal! (2x)

Proverb

It's not only fishermen who carry large hooks.

J.St.

page 29

ALL MOTHERS

Is it finally our turn, o ja
You've annoyed us long enough, ja ja
Who makes your packed lunch?
Who cleans up and makes it all tidy?
Who goes last to bed? (2x)

Who supports you in daily life? the wife!
Who carries the daughter or the son? the wife!
Who is always helping her man
Who just can't help himself?
the wife - the wife - the wife! (2x)

We haven't finished talking yet, o no
We're so sick of your bleating, now now
We women now demand our right
And take this as read
We are not your servants! (2x)

ALL FATHERS

O dearest bestest wife, now now
You've given us a wad to chew, au au
There is none better and true

Than Mother our own wife
Who is always close by (2x)

YOUNG MEN FROM 18 - 40 YEARS, UNMARRIED

What sort of crazy talk is that, a bah
That's silly talk, that's bleating, a bah
Come girls, give us a kiss
At a feast like this you may
But with much decency ! (2x)

page 30

GIRLS SAME AGE AND STATUS

Well guys that doesn't seem so silly, oh no
We like a bit of kissing, OK
But only here in the hall
Under the eyes of all
And without much cabal ! (2x)

BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER 18 YEARS

We don't drink wine or beer, oh no
For that we are too small, oh no
But for the joy of this feast
We have been number one
't is the feast, 't is the feast, 't is the feast (2x)

FOR THE REST OF THE PEOPLE THAT HAVEN'T SUNG YET

We are the rest, you feel that well, ja ja
Even though we come last, ja ja
The feast and the Bridal pair include us
And thus we will sing
For the Bruidal couple van der Laan (2x)

EVERYBODY

Now all the guests will stand, come on
And happily admire the Bridal pair, spontaneously
They gave us this wonderful feast
In joyful mood, gracious spirit:
Cheers ! Bridal pair van der Laan ! (2x)

Proverb

If you burn your head you need to check the stubble.

E.J.

page 31

Advertisement

REQUESTED FOR FISHING SEASON

Large quantity of lead, hooks and lures.

Offers to E.J., temporary address "The Gilded Colander", Dover

Advertisements

It is my great pleasure to use this advert to advise of my enormous satisfaction with the personnel of the A.B.C. and the perfect workmanship that they achieved this year also.

I admire you all

G. de Haan

Smart, noisy young man, seeks a

QUIET AND LOVING GIRL

to enjoy a half-year vacation
with him in New Zealand.

Letters to the desk of this paper

WHO

can deliver to me daily, nicely baked in fat
POTATOES
with
PEAS ?

Address offers to "I'm NOT WELL"

Driving licence exam too difficult?

It's not so, you're just thinking that!

It depends on who teaches you

It's Eerke that has successes!

Feeling tired ??

Recover with STONE - POWDERS !

Guaranteed success !

LOVESONG OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM

With you, with you, I want to go fishing

With you, with you, to pull the pike out of the water

Great to play with you on the waters edge

Near the lowing of the cows in the meadow!

With you, with you, I want to go fishing

With you, with you, to pull the pike out of the water

And maybe you catch nothing
The pleasure will stop then!
With you, with you, I want to go fishing.

Proverb

No matter how strong the Whiskey
the Bridegroom will like it.

G.M.

page 32

Proverb

A satisfied Weatherboarder
does not disturb the peace. J.St.

page 33

FAREWELL SONG

By Janny of Murk

Tune: 't is Meië

Goodnight, we're going to bed
The day has been good
We celebrated with each other
The silver wedding feast
The silver wedding feast
Together we close this day
'T was a celebration that is seldom seen
So happy and free, so happy and free,
So happy and free, so happy and free.

May this evening often
So joyful and happy
Stay in our minds
That's what we wish
That's what we all wish
Together we close this day
'T was a celebration that is seldom seen
So happy and free, so happy and free'
So happy and free, so happy and free.

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SIGNATURES

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SIGNATURES

Type: TASMANIAN COPYING SERVICE
A. van der Schoor
KINGSTON BEACH

Advertisement

MARRIAGE. Handsome, sturdy, tall youngster, musically inclined, good voice and definitely alcohol free, old O.V.W'er with extensive experience in Indonesia seeks, via this unsympathetic advert, pretty, young girl, with a view to marriage after several years.

Letters to
"POUR ME ANOTHER ONE JACK"