

Netherlands.
Feb 23-24 1965

From
Nobby

money, which he promises to pay me back in dollars (I think it's \$2.00 that he owes me). This time I did all right on the cab, I think, and the 10/6 for the railroad ticket. We just missed the 8:02 and had to wait for the 8:33, which put us about fifteen minutes behind because the 8:02 is a local and the 8:33 stopped only at Croydon and then Redhill.

We walked over the back way. I wasn't quite sure of directions but my sixth sense came through and we made it without a fault right over to the Research Building.

Nobby took Graydon and me to the airport, where everything went smoothly. We got on our airplane and in forty minutes actual time (but an hour and forty minutes by clock time) we got to Amsterdam, where Bill Tinlin and Ed met us. Graydon and I had both carried our bags on the plane, so it was very easy for us to walk off and after I picked up enough Dutch money to pay the hotel (I hope) we easily went through the customs and Bill brought us down here to the Lage Vuursche. We are very well situated with rooms on the back side, overlooking the athletic field out back, thereby nice and quiet with no Bromfiets or busses to interrupt sleep - what there is of it. These rooms are the ones that you have to go through the bathroom to get into the bedroom.

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Shortly after I got in my room, Bruce showed up and we had about an hour's talk over how things had gone here at Soest, since I had already talked to him about England ^{this} ~~that~~ morning.

Cold and drizzly just like it was yesterday, so my luck isn't holding out too well on the weather, although Graydon claims he always takes rain wherever he goes and apparently that is overriding my sunshine.

Bruce, Ed, Graydon and I piled into the little company car that

Bruce had borrowed, and went down to the company this morning. I drove and didn't have much trouble finding it. Of course, I will admit that Bill brought us back around the company last night and thereby refreshed my memory, but I think I would have been able to make it.

Incidentally, I don't have with me my Dutch road map. I think that I've got to establish some sort of procedure regarding all these maps, so that I continually acquire more maps and take them with me on the trips rather than continually finding myself without them. For instance, I had one map - the thirty miles or something around London - that certainly would have come in handy while we were there, and the road map of Nederland would have been helpful just now.

Tonight we had dinner - Ed, Graydon and I - with John, Bill and Maarten, then Graydon and I had an hour or so talk in his room before I came in and found how delinquent I had been on this Dictet. I've got to end up with a couple of things anyhow, so I'll probably do this on the plane on the way back - maybe some tomorrow night at the airport motel in London - but I don't really expect to get too much since this is, after all, a trip introducing Graydon, and Ed and Bruce are both here to handle a lot of the detail. I find myself continually asking people to refer questions to one of those fellows rather than me as we go around the plant.

Wednesday night in the Forte Airport Hotel. We got here with little or no difficulty. The green top-hat gal was not at the airport but while I went inside to call the car came along and just as we were about to leave a radio call came for the car, telling them to pick up a Mr. Bradner at Channel 8.

This Forte Hotel is just as I remembered it. There doesn't seem

to be any new feature except possibly the arrangement for getting continental breakfast in your room. There is a door knob hanger to fill out which you put outside your door, telling when you would like to have it and making a small selection. I decided it was about the right amount for me so ordered it. I couldn't get Graydon to do it before I left him. He was tired and wanted to get to sleep right away.

I wasn't quite sure of the exact time a few minutes ago so I dialed the 9 to get the line and then dialed TIM and sure enough, along came peeps on 1 second intervals and a lady's voice said, "At the sound of the next tone it will be exactly 11:43 and 10 seconds." Other features of the telephone system here, if you want to send an inland telegram just get the outside line and dial TEL - if it is over seas, including ship, it is dial 557. For overseas calls the code for Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavia is 105, the rest of Europe 104, places outside of Europe 108. If you want weather you can dial WEA and then the appropriate number for London or Essex Coast or Kent Coast or Sussex Coast, or if you want other areas you dial the metrological office TEM 4311. If you are interested in tourist information - main events of the day in and around London - you can get it in English with one number, French another, Spanish another, German another. Between 1 October and 30 April one can get road weather on roads within 50 miles of London by dialing ASK 6611. During test matches in England one can get the prospects of play and scores by dialing EMP.

12:30, so I'll sign off.

2/12/54 Well, the girl caught me off guard. I had said between 7 and 7:15 - she showed up at 5 minutes of 7 and I was 3 minutes from being ready,

so she had to stand outside my door holding the tray.

Last night at dinner Ans commented that she had been to the Orient Restaurant the last time with a girl friend of hers, excuse me, a woman friend of hers, who is also a member of the Women from West Sumatra. Ans was born there and as she grew up she experienced a life very similar to the western U.S. - the old Wild West. The country's economy depended very heavily on the rubber plantations and similar - these plantations were maybe a hundred miles back inland from the town she lived in. These people would come in when they had a good crop and ride horseback steady to get in, then one night in the hotel, a day of shopping, a night of drinking steady, and the next day without having any sleep off to the plantation again.

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I'm listening to the radio right now. They are quoting the Prime Minister in his speech saying that the English had to change their whole attitude if they want to stay in international business. He suggested, for instance, that losing an order because of an argument between two men as to which one should bore a hole would have to stop.

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Back to Ans -- apparently, during this night-long drinking these guys would do all the things that the American cowboy would do - or at least what they now do on TV. They would ride through the banquet halls on horseback, sometimes driving a carriage through; they'd shoot the place up and in general tear the whole place apart.

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Interesting new bill here which will allow the police to stop an automobile and search it for firearms. They have been unable to do this in the past so anybody with firearms could just put them in a

car and drive away. There are quite a few violent crimes these days and the police are conventionally unarmed in England, so there is a big move to give the police some better way of taking care of themselves.

Coming over from Amsterdam on the KLM plane I asked the hostess for a Dutch paper when she came along just to have some fun practicing my translation. It went quite fine. I was able to read about the Mobil Refinery being built just outside Amsterdam and about the Malcolm X problem in the U.S., and in fact, most of the news that I heard this morning on the radio. The only problem about the paper was of course all the hostesses and the man who was also working in the cabin all spoke to me in Dutch. The man came along and started talking to me about the football game that I knew had been on while we were eating at the Orient because we had had to duck around to miss all the traffic. I knew the subject he was talking about from the words I understood, but of course I couldn't understand the details so I had to laugh and tell him I didn't really understand Dutch too well - I was just practicing. He said, "Why do you practice Dutch - it's an awful language." As the hostesses came by with snacks and with coffee and tea, and when they came by to give us our coats on the way out, they spoke always in Dutch. Of course I was perfectly able to say

It is a continual amazement to me how much fun one can have with a few words in a foreign language when you don't have to depend on it, when you always have English to fall back on. I'm sure I'd learn a lot quicker if there weren't so many people who knew English but also I probably would get pretty hungry sometimes too.
