

Stieltjeskanaal
Dalen.

Febr 26. 1939.

Dear Jeanette,

How long is it that I write to you. It was in August 1938 and now it is Febr 1939. At first I thank you for the Christmas-card and your wish for 1939. I will begin this letter with a wish for you although it is very late.

Be blest with health and peace and sweet content.

I had last year a very fine summer hollidays. I made a trip as I wrote you on my bicycle. Every day I covered one hundred kilometres or more, one day even two hundred and seventy-five. At first I went to my friend in Heerlen in the south of the Netherlands and with him I made a trip through the southern states of the Netherlands. On that trip I met two girls out Boston, who made a trip through the Netherlands an Germany; it was a great honour for my friend a me to show the two American ladies one of the mot beautiful piece of Holland. I met also on my trip English and French. I was back at home on Sept. 1.

On Sept 6 we had a great feast. On that day it was fourty years that our Queen had become Queen of the Netherlands. It was such a glorious evenement. The towns in whole country were illuminated by hundred thousands and millions little electric lamps. It lasted from eight o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the morning the following day. In the evening I went dancing with my school-fellows in our special reserved dancing-room.

When I was back at school, we get so much homework, that I had so little spare time.

So I worked till the Christmas. We got hollidays on Dec. 22. Then it was just freezing very hard to that canals and lakes were covered with a thick low of ice. Every day of my holliday from Dec 22 till January 10 I went skating. Skating is one of the popular sports in Holland, for we have in Holland so very many canals.

We can made here long trips on skates. One day I made a trip of twenty five kilometres. On Dec 25 I went at church in the morning and in the evening, we were all at home sitting round the Christmas-tree and listening to the radio to a church-service. I like it so much, such a evening.

We had in the hollidays also a dance-evening from our school. It was on Dec 28. The latest evening in 1939, we were together. On De 31 I was also at home; in the evening. I went to the church and I was back at ten o'clock. Then we sat down round the table and waited till twelf o'clock and we wished each other a happy new-year and drunk a glass of wine. In the first week of January, I was every skating, and in the evening I was so very tired that I was not able to write and every evening I went early to bed, sometimes at nine o'clock for I was so sleeply.

On January 10 I went back to school at the home works was as much as before Christmas. And on Feb 18 we had a revue of our school. It was such a fine evening such a great success. When I came for the second time on the scene, I received a applause from nearly five minutes.

(I must tell you that just the football match between The Netherlands and the Hungarians is ended. The Hungarian have a very strong team. Last year they were second which the Worldchampionship. But I can tell you that the Dutch won 302.)

In the Easter holidays we have a meeting from the fifty seminaries, which we have in Holland. From every seminary goes one person to that meeting in the Hague. I must represent our school. It is a meeting for the World-peace.

I have to do my final examinations in Juny. Then I must join the Army or the navy. We have here in Holland compulsory military service. But I think I go at first to the high school for the ??? Amsterdam. To study for ??? and operator or radio- telegraphist(?). I can do the my examination about 1 ½ year. Perhaps you see me then about two years in America on a great mail-steamer or flying through the sky in an aeroplane.

I hope that I will see you once in my life. And I think when God protect us for a war and for illness, it will be. But helas it last perhaps three years.

This summer I intend to go to Germany with some other boys for my school to make a walking-trip through the Eifel (A German mountain) Then I hope to meet my German pen-pals, who lives in Berlin. He studies at a Oberreal schule (Highschool or University) Yesterday I got a post-card from Agnes. She is now as you know surely in Galland (?). I will send here today also a post-card. I believe she likes travelling, for nearly every year she is in another ~~place~~ town, but I think she is a very "sweet" girl. When I come to America (perhaps) I also hope to meet her.

No, I am not going to be a teacher, Jan. Jan is a very fine name, it is a Dutch boys name. Now I close this letter, for it is half past five and I have to go this evening to my friend yesterday I listened to a Dutch-man a prof. who is in America at the Harvard University in Boston. He was broadcasting by W.1.X.A.L. into Dutch. Next Saturday we have also a Dutch program, just as Saturday a week. When you will once hear Dutch, you must listen to that. But I am afraid that you can't understand it. I listen very often to English and American programs. You asked me what the name was of my sister. Helas, I have no sister. Only one brother of 23.

I enclose two post cards. Perhaps you like them and a photo of myself. It is a very bad photo but I can not help.

When you have a fine photo of yourself send it me. I like some so very much. You are such a beautiful lady.

Now I close
Your Dutch-boy
Herm.

P.S. Can you send me the New-American stamps of the International World-Expostion
I should like it so very much
May I call you Jan?

Goodnight, darling!
Till next letter