

The Sandy Post

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Letters to the Editor

The Sandy Post
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Dec. 17, 1963

Dear Sirs,
Since I have enjoyed the subscription to the Sandy Post for the past months, the idea came to me to send the countless people I have met in Sandy last year, my Christmas greetings via your newspaper. When I was in Sandy as an exchange student, I had the honor to see published a couple of articles about or by me in your paper and I hope this time you won't mind giving up a little corner either. Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely,
Jasper Potharst
Here's the little article:

"Once upon a time, there was an exchange student from Holland and they called him Jasper Potharst. He talked real funny and he used to play the violin whenever he was supposed to speak. But he wasn't a real Dutchman because he didn't wear wooden shoes..."

This may be the kind of memories in a sort of vague fairy-tale style, which may bubble up in your mind when you hear my name. Well, the hero of the fairy-tale still lives, and he hasn't forgotten Sandy, yet, as he is proving to you now.

May I start with wishing a good Christmas and a happy 1964, 1965, etc. to all those people who I had the honor to meet, to all the ones who invited me in their homes and to them who would have liked to do so, and to those who would not have liked to, shortly, to everyone I give my warm, well-meant, but ill-spoken wishes for the New Year.

Many things occurred since I left Sandy, but only things took place, which seemed impossible to take place. After the shock had left my chaotic mind, my first reaction was to send you a telegram of sympathy, but I could find no words, which would be appropriate, in proportion to this horrible thing, nor can I find them now.

I can only make some side-notes, insignificant trifles; at the moment the fatal news reached Holland, the American Food Exposition was closed, a huge portrait of Kennedy was placed by the front door and in the hours to come, many Amsterdam people walked to this portrait and laid flowers by it. A friend of mine wanted to make a picture of this, but he couldn't, his hand trembled too much.

Fortunately, world peace is now closer than ever was the case during my visit to America. I am glad the U.S. has dared to

take the responsibility at advocating peace, and accepting the consequence of this. The tension, which had grown to an almost physical strain, has fallen off.

Also because of this, I am now happily attending the University of Amsterdam, where I am taking courses in math, philosophy, Russian, and science. I am also thinking of taking up some other language in order to divide my attention equally between science and humanities.

Although I am in college, I still live at home, in my family, which I am enjoying very much after having been away for a year. I have come to see the difference between an American and a Dutch family now. An American family (as I see it) seems an outward, a Dutch family an inward family, I mean: an American family becomes a unity in out-of-home occasions they go and eat in town together go and visit relations, etc.

The Dutch family hardly ever does such things, but many times a Dutch family will play a game or something in that direction inside the walls of the home, whereas I have seldom seen an American family complete at home (except maybe on sleeping time). But this view may be wrong. I am prepared to change my opinion,

whenever I will receive opposing reactions.

About my and my family's health, I cannot tell you but good things, also my violin is coming very well. At the moment I play at the Amsterdam Junior Symphony again, although I have to admit that your Portland one is much better.

Thinking this has been the best way to let many people hear something from me and wish them the best I can for the coming year, I still want to say that I would very much appreciate any reactions on this little article, and that I will do my very best to answer any questions about my family and my country and discuss political and other matters (I have become pretty interested in this).

If there might be any reactions I would maybe publish another article in this paper unless you'd rather have a personal answer. My address: Rosendaalstraat 23 H S, Amsterdam-Oost Holland.



JASPER POTHARST

After having sent "Hi" to you all, I would like to express my feeling at the moment with the Dutch proverb: "The clock ticks nowhere as it does at home" and maybe in Sandy.

Sincerely,
Jasper Potharst
Ex-change student



B. K. Dutta Barman and sister, Bandana Dutta Barman

Insurance Man Joins Million Dollar Club

James G. Hood of 16907 NE Davis St. has qualified for the "Million Dollar Club" of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. by selling over \$1 million worth of insurance in the first 11 1/2 months of 1963, his employer announced.

Hood is affiliated with the Perl A. Kessinger General Agency in Portland and is the agency's third man to qualify for the honor.

Dec. 16, 1963

Dear Editor:

It is interesting to say "Hi!" to you just after one year. Prior to my departure to India on the last 15 Dec. 1962, I greatly enjoyed your company with other friends at Portland air port. You published my pictures in your "Sandy Post" on 20 Dec. 1962. I am sending my present photo in

which you will see also my little sister Bandana (16). During this period I have lost my dear parents. But now I am better in mind and health. We are saddened by the news of the tragic death of President Kennedy. He was a true friend of India.

My best regards to you.
Sincerely,
Birendra Kumar
Dutta Barman
(heart patient)
4159 Chanditola Lane
Calcutta 40, India

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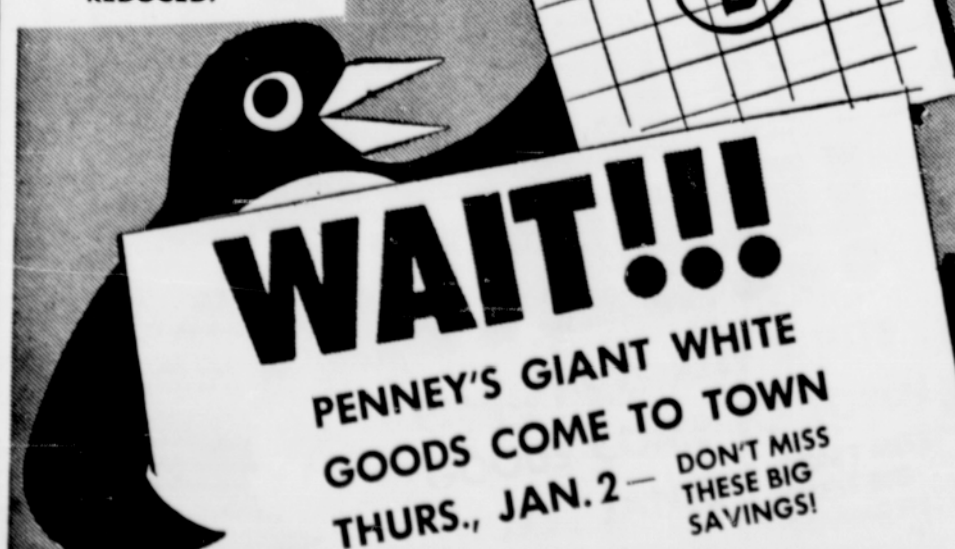
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