

Chapter 4 – All is well that ends well.

Family news continued to dominate the 1980's. Unfortunately, Jan's marriage to Robert did not work out and they were divorced in 1985. We were very happy for her when she and John announced that they would be married on 12 April 1986. That ceremony took place in the small chapel in Yosemite Valley followed by a dinner in a private dining room of the Ahwahnee Hotel. When we left the Ahwahnee on the way back to where we were staying it started to snow. Not really a big surprise as it was only the first half of April.



Jan and John 12 April 1986

Jan and John settled in La Honda, CA on the San Francisco Peninsula way back in the big trees. They both worked for San Mateo County in Redwood City which meant a fairly long commute.

The family continued to grow in 1986. The first addition was Peter and Eleanor's son Karsten who was born May 17, 1986. He was closely followed by Jan and John's son Schuylar, who was born August 27, 1986. The next generation was now in place and continuation of the family name in the U.S. was now assured.



Karsten




Schuylar

In 1986 I finally started my application for U.S. citizenship. I could have done so five years earlier when I ceased travelling to Latin America. The difference in passports meant that with a Dutch passport I never needed to go through the nuisance of applying for visas for Central America so I could travel on a minutes notice. With an American passport visas were generally needed. One of the documents I had to complete as part of my application was a listing of all my trips out of the country together with return dates, ports of entry and carriers. It filled up an entire page. After the usual mandatory interviews and questioning citizenship was granted and I was sworn in on 30 June 1987. I applied to the U.S. State Department for a U.S. passport and surrendered my Dutch passport to the Dutch Consulate in San Francisco. Even though all the paperwork I had submitted as part of my citizenship application showed my name as Daniel Mari Ocker de Roo van Alderwerelt, the State Department complied with my request to show my name in the passport simply as Daniel van Alderwerelt which is how my original green card had been issued in 1952.

<p>This is to certify that DANIEL VAN ALDERWERELT was admitted to the United States on Sept. 15, 1952 at New York, N. Y. as a quota immigrant for From Res under Section 8(a)(3) of the Immigration Act of 1924 and has been registered under the Alien Registration Act, 1940. Visa Application No. J 126689</p>				
DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	HAIR	EYES	HEIGHT
Oct. 16, 1929	M	dark brown	blue	6'1"
<p>Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization. GPO 16-48409-2</p>				

DUPLICATE



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**IMMIGRATION
AND
NATURALIZATION
SERVICE**

*Alien Registration
Receipt Card*

Registration Number
B 968 333

FORM 1-12 (7-1-60) 16-48409-1

Green Card

No. 12723843

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NORTHERN DIST. OF CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

JUNE 27, 1987

WILLIAM J. BUTTNEY

Secretary



20

Naturalization Certificate



Citizen Dan June 30, 1987
outside the San Francisco court house.

We were interested in seeing the Canadian Rockies but did not really wanted to do the driving so we booked a June/July 1986 bus tour that started in Seattle and headed north from there. We flew to Seattle and visited with Beverly's sister Barbara and her husband Bill Griswold before joining the bus group. The tour covered a lot of territory and went as far as Banff and Jasper. On the way there we stopped at so many places, including Lake Louise and at the small stream located at the Continental Divide; saw Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies; drove along ice fields and glaciers.



Barbara and Bill Griswold



We are ready to go!



Lake Louise



Continental Divide stream



Moraine Lake



High peaks

My niece, Ank van Alderwerelt, came to the Bay Area for the first time in September 1986 for a convention related to her job with International Freight Forwarders in Amsterdam. After her meetings she stayed at our house for several days before returning to Amsterdam. This was the first of her many visits and while a few were on business most of them were on vacation with her husband Willem who was my close friend. I stayed at their house almost every time I was in Europe on my own.

Our good friends, Bernice and Don Manchester, convinced us to go with them on another cruise on Sitmar's Fairwind in October 1986. We had sailed on her in 1983 and while she was an older ship we really enjoyed the atmosphere on this ship. We stopped at Nassau, St. John, St. Maarten and St. Thomas and celebrated my 57th birthday on board.



With the Captain



My birthday celebration



Beverly and Bernice



Don and Bernice

In late October 1986 my father fell in the living room of his apartment in The Hague. Fortunately granddaughter Sophia was in the kitchen cooking dinner so she was able to raise the alarm quickly and he was admitted to the hospital. I flew to Holland on November 1 and saw him several times in the hospital. He was only able to carry on a very limited conversation. There did not seem to be any major physical damage from the fall but the medical profession felt that he should not return home and live on his own again. I flew back to California and in time a care home was found for him in The Hague where he had his own room with a few of his possessions. Meanwhile his own home with most of his belongings in it remained unoccupied. Unfortunately, it came to the attention of some shady individuals who broke in one night by breaking a small window. The family's silver was in a safety deposit box and therefore was safe but they did take some other stuff, including various medals and decorations that my father had received during his long military career. I believe that he was never told about this.

Shortly after my return from Holland I again traveled to Atlanta for a week, which was my fourth trip there that year.

Beverly spent much of her time playing party bridge and competing in duplicate bridge tournaments. She had also become a devoted golfer. This enabled her to play the Lake Almanor Country Club course when we were there on summer vacations. However, she had to cope with bad headaches during the 1980's and ran into some major allergy problems. The latter went away when one of her medications was discontinued.

Karsten's first birthday was on May 17, 1987. He and Sky, who was 3 months younger, tried to play together. They were more interested in the toys than in each other!



Karsten and Sky

In August 1987 we rented a house at Lake Almanor for a week. Kids and grandkids came up to join us. Karsten was one year old and Schuyler would be one towards the end of August so you can well imagine how busy the house was. We noticed that the house uphill from our rental had a for sale sign on it. We looked at it and liked it but it turned out that there was a pending sale on it. So we decided to look around a bit more to see what might be available but there was nothing that appealed to us. This meant we had to wait until the next spring before we could look at other houses to purchase..



The whole family at Almanor rental



Lake Almanor beach

Sometimes you have to wonder why certain things happen almost at the same time. But, you just have to roll with the punches. My brother Frits and his wife Eve announced that they were flying in from Holland for a visit towards the end of August 1987. They were on their way to a political convention of some sort in Toronto. They were with us for Schuyler's first very informal birthday celebration on August 27, 1987 in a park in Redwood City



Frits, Beverly, Eve



Sky one year old

And it was only two weeks after they had left that my oldest brother Rugier flew in from Holland. He had not been well for a long time so he really wanted to do very little. We did take him out to Peter and Eleanor's house in Lafayette. When a few days later we drove him to San Francisco to sightsee he decided that he was not well enough to get out of the car and look around. One of my sinus surgeries was scheduled during his stay but I did not change that. He was with us for close to three weeks.



Rugier, Peter, Karsten, Sky, Dan



Jan, Sky, Rugier, Peter, Eleanor, Karsten

On my father's 90th birthday on September 14, 1987 an army band lined up outside the building where he lived and when he was brought outside in his wheel chair they serenaded him. Quite a few relatives were there and it would have been nice if I could have been there but I did not know this was going to take place. He had always said that he wanted to make it to 90.



Army Band



90th birthday

On October 20 we joined Bernice and Don Manchester on an eleven day Caribbean cruise on the Fairsky. That was the newest ship of the Sitmar Line and was among the first of the larger cruise ships. We had previously been in most of the ports that this ship stopped at so we hardly went ashore and instead enjoyed the peace and quite on board while most of the passengers were ashore.

My father passed away in his sleep on November 29, 1987, two and a half month after his 90th birthday. I learned about it the next day in a phone call from my brother Rugier. Again it was suggested that I come over in about two or three weeks. Because of Christmas and New Year's I did not fly over until January 8. I had to go through the exact same routine of arranging a meeting with our attorney . I proposed a plan consisting of two meetings, the first one to decide on the division of the contents of the house and the second one to arrange for the evaluation of the apartment and for the liquidation of investments so that cash disbursements could be made as soon as the required tax returns were filled and approved. Our attorney approved of the plan and arranged the meeting dates. It was agreed that as his part of his inheritance my brother Frits would get my parents' apartment and they moved into it quite quickly. Rugier and I therefore shared most of the financial assets. When the initial steps were taken care of I returned to the States. I was happy when several months later the items that I had selected out of my parents' apartment arrived in San Carlos. Only a few of the Chinese plates were broken in transit. On one of my previous trips I had already brought home quite a bit of sterling silver that my grandmother had left me. I had been able to have an expert in The Hague issue a certificate stating that the silver was in excess of 100 years old so that I could bring it in through U.S. customs as antiques not subject to any duty.

I wish I had been able to attend my parents' funerals. Both were cremated and the closest family members had been present. At my father's ceremony taps were played. Their ashes were spread at a local field designated for that purpose.



Christmas dinner 1987

Yet another cruise took us to the Western Caribbean in late February/early March 1988. This time on Royal Caribbean "Song of America". We certainly enjoyed the warm sunshine!



Ready for dinner



Ready for the beach



Mayan ruins at Tulum, Mexico



At the beach in Haiti

We were now a lot more determined to find a vacation house where we could spend time away from the Bay Area. In the second half of June we looked at Lake of the Pines and Lake Wildwood; we stopped at Graeagle and arrived at Lake Almanor without having found anything we liked along the way. This time there was a house for sale within the Lake Almanor Country Club that we liked. The address was 856 Lassen View Drive. We put an offer on it and it was accepted. The transaction closed August 4, 1988. It was about 2,000 sq.ft. all on one level and had three bedrooms, two bathrooms, dining room, living room, kitchen and lots of closet space. Adjacent to the detached two car garage was a large workshop with parking space for a golf cart. From the front of the house we could see part of the lake and from the back we could see part of the golf course.



Looking towards the lake from our front deck



Golf course at the back of our house

Now we had to furnish it! We searched for stuff at a number of outlet stores, warehouse clearances and garage sales. What we were able to find plus things that we no longer needed in our San Carlos house were loaded on a rental truck which John and his friend Paul drove up to the Almanor house.

In the middle of all this, Peter and Eleanor's second child Brennan was born on July 23, 1988.



Beverly with Brennan

We spent most of the month of August at our Almanor house. Jan, John and Sky joined us for a while and we celebrated Sky's 2nd birthday there.



John playing his guitar and Sky playing in the dirt



Sky's second birthday at the lake

In September I needed to spend some time at the offices of our major subsidiary in Chicago in order to resolve some insurance and financial reporting problems. Since they were at the outskirts of town I never did see downtown Chicago.

In October we closed up the Almanor house for the winter and that became the normal routine for the next 12 years. It so happened that this year there was an early snowfall in November. A friend who was up there at the time took these pictures of our house.



We put our residence at 406 Windsor Drive in San Carlos on the market late that same year and sold it at what we thought was an outrageous price of \$510,000. Today's estimated value is at least twice that because of its proximity to Silicon Valley! Several things motivated us to sell the house we had lived in for 25 years: it was a high upkeep sloping lot; the kids were out on their own; the house lacked any kind of insulation and there was a long staircase down to the garage and groceries had to be carried up those stairs. What we wanted was a more up to date place with less yard and upkeep so that we could leave on a moments notice for our house at Lake Almanor. We had a buyer before we had even found a house we were interested in. I am sure that the fact that we had done some remodeling involving a new kitchen and an enlarged living room had made it more attractive. We did subsequently find a very nice town house not far away in the San Carlos hills at 1108 Royal Lane which we bought at \$415,000. It

was about three years old and had about 2,600 sq.ft. with a large living room, a dining room, a kitchen and a half bath on the ground floor and upstairs a large master bedroom, a guest bedroom, two bathrooms, laundry room and an open loft area overlooking the dining room below. By juggling closing dates we were able to make the move in mid March 1989. We were very comfortable in our new place and the upstairs open loft area became our family room. I set up my desk in a corner of the guest bedroom. The commute to my office was very simple as we were very close to highway 280 and our office was off highway 92.

We certainly learned quickly how to enjoy the Lake Almanor area and the small town of Chester.



July 4th parade in Chester



Brennan and Karsten



A nice catch!



Peter and Brennan at the beach

Willem and Ank came for a long and very nice visit in June of 1989. After staying in San Carlos for a while we went up to Lake Almanor and they loved exploring the area including Lassen Volcanic National Park.



Dinner in San Carlos



Willem and Ank at Jan's fair booth



Our house



Mt. Lassen across the lake



Taking a break from touring around



Willem and Ank in snow at 8,000 feet in Mt. Lassen National Park in June!

Between our cruises, travels to Europe and now time at Lake Almanor I was away from my office more than ever. In theory I had three weeks annual vacation but nobody was keeping track of me. For obvious reasons I would clear my absences with Peter Gardiner but his attitude was that as long as my staff knew where I was and could contact me there was nothing to worry about. This was all also possible because I had good people working for me who I had trained well.

In July we celebrated Beverly's 60th birthday with a dinner at a restaurant in San Mateo. There were several tables to accommodate our kids and a number of our friends.



We really enjoyed our Lake Almanor home. So much so that frequently I would leave my office at noon on Fridays and make the long drive to the lake. Beverly would have been there already since the previous weekend so we would have several days together. She enjoyed being up there during the summer, playing golf and bridge with other club members. One Friday I was able to hitch a ride on a small plane out of the Palo Alto airport that had been chartered by an attorney who had houses in Atherton and Lake Almanor. Very interesting to fly up the Feather River Canyon up to the 4,500 feet elevation of the Chester airfield. The kids would come up whenever they could make the time available.

My 60th birthday came around on October 16 of 1989. The occasion was celebrated with a dinner at home with kids and grand kids.



The next day while driving home from my office on highway 92 I thought there was all of a sudden something terribly wrong with my car and so I pulled off the road. There was nothing wrong with my car. It was the Loma Prieta earthquake that struck at 5:04:15 pm on Tuesday October 17, 1989 and was rated at 6.9. This was one day after my 60th birthday. When I reached home, Beverly was still out in the street talking to neighbors and wondering if there were going to be any major aftershocks. We only had some very minor damage from pictures falling down. However, there was major damage in San Francisco and Oakland and a section of the Bay Bridge connecting San Francisco and Oakland collapsed. In all there were 64 deaths directly related to that earthquake.



Earthquake scenes in San Francisco



Earthquake scenes in San Francisco

When the telephones were working again that evening I contacted not only Peter Gardiner but also our computer staff to start determining what sort of damage we had incurred. Our property policies covered earthquakes but our damage was confined to major chaos in our San Mateo offices. I was able to get to our building the next day but we were not allowed in until a safety inspection had taken place. When we were finally able to get into the building we found that filing cabinets and bookcases had been tossed around as if they weighed nothing. All wall decorations were on the floor as were all items that had been on desks and tables. All of that could be fixed fairly quickly.

Our computer center on the lower floor was not damaged. None of our other facilities had been damaged, not even our vegetable packing/freezing plant in Salinas which was not that far from the epicenter. If the earthquake had struck a half hour earlier many of us would have been in the office and some of us would certainly have been severely hurt by all the stuff that had been tossed around.

One or more individuals from Dalgety PLC London would usually come over for the Dalgety Inc. Board meetings and while I was not a Board member, I was always invited to the Board lunches which gave me the opportunity to respond to questions about my area of responsibility. It became quite clear to me that the relationship between Dalgety PLC and Dalgety Inc. was gradually deteriorating. One reason was naturally the cultural difference. But accounting practices and methods of doing business were also different. Since Peter Gardiner had quite quickly adopted an American way of doing things and was quite outspoken, the atmosphere generally became a bit tense. We got the feeling that Dalgety PLC in London wanted to divest its North American interests.

With these possible storm clouds on the horizon we nevertheless booked another cruise, this time on Holland America Line's Noordam. It was a simple middle of February cruise in the Caribbean and since we had already been to most of the islands there was not much reason to go ashore more than a few times. We also decided that a table for two at the edge of the dining room balcony would be a comfortable spot for us.



On board the Noordam



Nice places to be in February!

It was therefore not a total surprise to me that rumors started to circulate in the outside world that Dalgety was trying to sell one or more of its subsidiaries. It was not much later that Dalgety Foods, Inc. in Salinas, CA as well as its operations elsewhere on the West Coast, was sold. My involvement was not much more than separating them from our group insurance policies and eliminating them from our banking/cash management system.

During the later part of 1990 we transferred the banking, cash management and insurance functions to our largest subsidiary, The Martin Brower Company, a major food distributing company in Chicago. Several of my people spent considerable time in Chicago training them to take over these functions. Finally, ownership changes also took place with our remaining subsidiaries, the Pig Improvement Company and Modern Maid Food Products.

With Dalgety, Inc. having been stripped of all of its functions, it was logical that the office would be closed on December 31, 1990. Ahead of that date we reduced staff and made the necessary arrangements for closure. A major factor for Peter Gardiner and me was how our separation and pension entitlements were going to be handled. I do not know what arrangements he was finally able to make for himself but I do know that he very much supported me and made it known to London that he

approved of what I was trying to achieve. I have reason to believe that he mentioned to London that we would engage attorneys if we were not treated properly. After lengthy negotiations and discussions with our pension managers, a pension formula for me was agreed upon that counted the four years I was short of the normal retirement age of 65. Also, when I joined the company in 1959, there had been a waiting period of five years before being able to qualify for the pension plan. It was finally agreed that those five years would in my case also be counted. Finally it was agreed that bonuses and separation pay which are normally excluded, were included in the pension calculation. All this resulted in a very satisfactory pension. I then made arrangements that if I died first a 2/3 pension would continue for Beverly. All in all a very satisfactory outcome for which I am forever grateful to Peter Gardiner for his help and support in getting it done.

While the official closing was December 31, 1990, the few remaining individuals gathered on Christmas Eve in the lobby of our office for a farewell glass of champagne. Our controller and a few of his staff had been given the job of handling the final closure, such as disposing of furniture and fixtures and dealing with all the loose ends that appear in this type of a situation. The rest of us said goodbye and went home that day. And so my official retirement started January 1, 1991, only two and a half months after my 61st birthday.
