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Have you heard...

MRS. WILLIAM (Ova) Parish of Momence is about to embark on a trip that is the stuff dreams are made of.

She will be flying soon to The Netherlands and meet **Queen Beatrix** at the palace — all expenses paid.

There will be such added events as an evening boat tour through Amsterdam's canals and dinner on board the boat; a visit to the Floriade — the world-famous international flower, plant and garden exposition, which takes place every 10 years; and meetings with persons whose interests parallel Mrs. Parish's interests here. And there will be an official reception with the queen as hostess.

All this began before this year's annual Momence Gladiolus Festival, of which Mrs. Parish has been the general chairman for many years.



Mrs. William Parish and S. C. Van Nispen ride in the Gladiolus Festival parade.

By
L. Elisabeth Fosse



Next came a call from the Dutch consulate in Chicago. Would Mrs. Parish be free to go to the Netherlands early in October, all expenses paid, a guest of the government there? Would she like to meet Queen Beatrix?

"I sat down and cried," says Mrs. Parish.

The first letter about her visit arrived Aug. 18. The second and third letters followed, confirming all the exciting details of the trip.

In the meantime, the officials there asked about Mrs. Parish's interests, and she told them of her years on the board of Riverside Medical Center, and the fact that she has also served the auxiliary, including as president. Because of this, the consulate there has included plans for her to visit to educational and medical facilities in The Netherlands.

As all these details are coming together, there is a lady in Momence who, after giving of herself to her community year after year, for a change will be receiving instead of giving.

Mrs. Parish was instrumental in getting a decorated plate through Rep. George O'Brien of Joliet, from the House of Representatives, and a plaque from Momence Chamber of Commerce, to present to the government of The Netherlands in commemoration this year of 200 years of unbroken diplomatic and trade relations between The Netherlands and the United States. It was also the 45th year for the glad festival.

After the gifts were received by The Netherlands, gifts were sent back to Momence, including a book on Dutch American history that was presented to the Momence Historical Society. The Dutch bicentennial flag was sent to the Momence Band. It was carried in the glad festival parade, and will be carried in future parades. Also given were books for every student in grades 4 through 12 in Momence schools.

Then, when Rodger Vandervliet, former Wichert artist, brought the art display from the Royal Academy of Fine Art in the Hague, Netherlands to Kankakee, the consul general — S. C. Van Nispen — came here. Mrs. Parish arranged for him to be guest of honor at the festival. He was in the Saturday parade, went to the flower show, and the drum and bugle corps show. He was also a guest in Mrs. Parish's home.



Gifts from The Netherlands

There was an exchange of gifts between Momence and The Netherlands after Mrs. William Parish, chairman of the Momence Gladiolus Festival for many years, was hostess to S. C. Van Nispen, consul-general of The Netherlands. Among gifts from The Netherlands were books for students in the Momence schools. Looking at the books from left, standing, are Paul Bradley, president of the Momence School Board; Kenneth Fox, principal of Momence Junior High, and Randy Halihan, an eighth grader. Mrs. Parish is seated.