

Changes in the village

by Ren Burger

Over the years I am living in Wijk aan Zee many things have changed in the village. When we arrive in the village we see the village green that was partly used as a football field. Football had to leave from the field. At first the game was played on the fields of Hoogovens nearby at Tussenwijk. In the mean time a sports park was constructed on a site of a little house with the name "Doolhof". On the opposite side of the Burg. Rothestraat was a large camping site, very well occupied in the summer. This area had to be reduced because of building new houses. Further on where is now the practice of doctor van Oudvorst, was also a field that belonged to Vondeloord.

That site as well had to leave for building houses. On the corner of the Duinweg was a grocer's shop of family Visser, which later on was sold to van Son. Visser started a tobacco shop with newspapers and magazines.

The Spar was really a cosy little grocer's shop, it ran out of space and is now a big Supermarket with apartments on top. The former boathouse had to be pulled down for the supermarket.

The lifeboat house is now situated at the Dorpsduinen, closer to the beach. We also had a beautiful hotel Kennemerduin. Really a splendid hotel which later was used as an asylum for Vietnamese boat people. I treasure up pleasant memories of this hotel.

We had two primary schools in Wijk aan Zee, a catholic and a public school. We have then tried to realize a new building for both schools. Many meetings with the villagers took place in this hotel Kennemerduin. After we had been called back by the catholic school governors we had to quit our plans. Anyhow, two years later the school was built at the Dorpsduinen. Next to the school came our village social centre. Some people got the idea to enlarge the building with a sports hall. So, it has never become a real social centre. It's now a sports hall with a café.

The beautiful Badhotel deteriorated and was pulled down. Now it is replaced by a quarter with houses. Juliana square has changed and new apartments – Belinfante- were built, a complex with shops. Also hotel Adelaide was pulled down en replaced by splendid houses.

Those were the changes I experienced in our lovely village. The mentality also has changed in many ways. In the early days everyone knew each other and was willing to help one another.

A nice village where always many events take place, this village I would never leave.