On Sunday, day-3, Bob and I toured a small area, mainly to the north of Markelo, with Jan and Diederik. A highlight was our press conference at the 300-year-old dendro-dated, *steltenberg,* a barrack with a raised floor, where Bob explained our mission to the reporters, "Alle stukken van hooibergen zijn hergebruikt in andere gebouwen."

Twentse hooiberg mee naar Amerika

Op camping de Keite in Markelo vertoefden afgelopen weekeinde twee Amerikanen. Op zich niet bijzonder rond Bevrijdingsdag. Timmerman Bob Hedges en architect Peter Sinclair kwamen echter niet voor de herdenking. Ze wilden leren een zeventiende-eeuwse Twentse hooibergconstructie te bouwen en namen daardoor een stukje Twente mee terug naar hun thuisland.

MARKELO

FOTO FRANK UILENBROEK

Jan ten Tije, Peter Sinclair, Bob Hedges en Diederik Roeterdink verkennen een echte Nederlandse hooiberg.

Two 4-Pole Barracks (*steltenbergen*) with raised floor and enclosure along the Linge River

5-Pole Barrack (*steltenberg*) bellow the dike along the river Waal

Monday, day 4, We drove with Martin Jansen to Gorssel to see two replacement barracks for one that had burned. The common lore is that it was caused by the heat of a passionate act in the mow, but others say it was struck by lightening.

We stopped off at Martin's house in Hattem and viewed his collection of barrack artifacts. Especially interesting was a rare and working example of a capstan-like devise (*heeft*) that was used to raise the roofs of the very large barracks, especially in Holland. It is illustrated in an important Dutch book by Francq van Berkhey, on South Holland hay barracks published in 1809. The illustrations in the book include the *heeft* and the barrack-screw but not the clever eastern method using a long sweep and a small piece of chain (*boom en ketting*). With this method the holes in the poles are at right angles to the plate and the roof (*kap*) is held up by an iron triangular support (bergijzer).

The design of this iron hardware and that used to hold the corners of the barrack plates from spreading should be known to American archaeologists and collectors of old wrought iron. If any of these were found here, it would help expand our understanding of our Old World links. I suspect that some Dutch techniques we saw and read about on our tour, may represent techniques developed since 1664, the date by which, I assume, the barrack was established and on its own path of development here in the Hudson Valley.

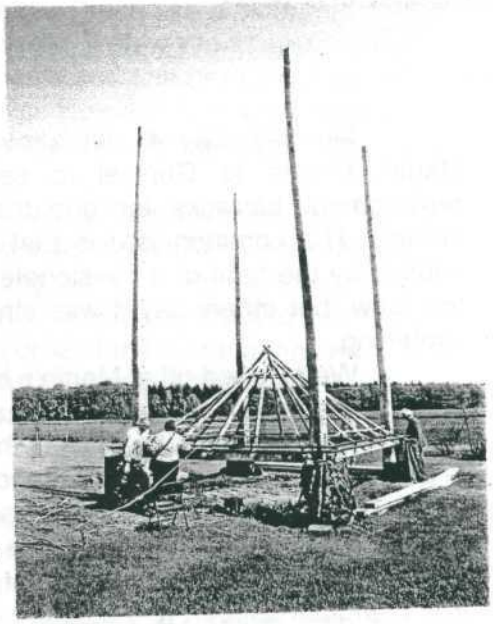
We drove next to Baak to visit the Hackford estate where a company of thatchers (*reitdekkers*) were thatching the Hackford's one-pole or umbrella-barrack (*paraplu*). Mr. Franken showed us the *verstekhaal*, a kind of metal jack that was used to raise the roof of one-pole barracks. Now, more and more of them are fitted with winches and cables. We visited the nearby Franken farm, home of the thatchers, and saw their large metal warehouse full of bundles of reed, some from as far away as Romania.

The Fa.Hissink Reitdekkers of Baak Thatch the Hackford's One-Pole Barrack (*Paraplu*)

Cows in an Aisle Barn, Veluwe Region Held with a Modern Chains Devise

On Tuesday, day 5, we went with Suzan M. Jurgens to Zeesse to see two newly restored thatched hay barracks on an old estate and we looked in two of their large barns. One had evidence of a stake-wall for cows on one side and a more modern system for holding the cows with a taught vertical chain replacing the simple rounded wooden stake nailed to the strut. We saw this same chain arrangement in a barn in the Veluwe region on our way to catch the plane home. How does the chain improve things? And, they are noisy when in use.

We drove to Hoonhorst to meet the carpenter, Willem Ruhoff, who has been specializing in restoration barracks. The average sized four-pole barrack takes about four weeks to build. Willem showed us a number of details of the roof construction and thatch, and we noted these features on other barracks he took us to. Most interesting was the joining of the major-rafters (what the Dutch call king-rafters) at the top of the roof. On the 4-pole barrack they are joined in opposite pairs, one pair above the other. I had surmised for the New World rafter system the four major rafters joining to a center block. This should be rethought. The Dutch system allows for flexibility.



Four-Pole Hay Barrack at Hoonhorst being built by Willem Ruhoff

The minor rafter, and there are usually four per side in The Netherlands (six per side in the Hudson Valley), rest on a collar (*zwaarden)* that is nailed to the major rafters. Over the rafters long shoots of black willow were tied about every foot, now they are nailed, and over this, layers of thatch, a mixture of fragmites-reed and cat-tail are applied and willow shoots placed above the thatch and tied to the lower willow shoots to hold the thatch in place, now this is done with a stainless steel wire. The peak is capped with a cone of straw. In the west these are given a decorative shape. Twists of straw are also used to plug the holes where the poles go through the thatch at the corners.