

BAPTIST FEATURES

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GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Hollander Presents
Embarrassing Question

MARKEN, Netherlands (BP)--A writer once pointed out that during the middle ages, while the people of France were building magnificent cathedrals, the people of Holland were building a country.

To reach the island of Marken, we drove our car along the top of the dike which now connects the village with the mainland. After parking outside the village, we entered another, older world.

The little wooden houses and tiny streets took us back 200 or 300 years to the time Marken fisherfolk knew only the sea and their own island. They still wear picturesque costumes of that age, and clop along the cobblestones in big, wooden shoes.

Today the tourist trade brings in more money than fish. Handiwork is on sale and some homes are open for tourist inspection. Toddlers pose for photographs (and candy) like veteran models. Over all is a spirit of gaiety and friendliness.

A Southern Baptist friend was in conversation with one colorful dame.

"It is a good thing you came today instead of on Sunday," the Hollander said.

"Why?" my friend asked.

"Because on Sunday you would find every business is closed. We are all Protestants in this village. Everyone goes to church on the Sabbath."

If my friend turned away wordless, it was because she was embarrassed. She was afraid the Dutch housewife might ask: "Is it not thus in 'Protestant' America?"

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Outline: Hungry Marken girl.