



This series narrates of real events in the notarial practice.

PART 6. The bus to Nowheresville.

There was a time when every secretary room had one IBM-ball typewriter; it was the ultimate tool for the typing of letters. And invoices in fourfold at one and the same time thanks to the carbon layer between four papers.

At that time a file was in paper only. To produce all that paper, there were two big copiers that made it possible to put in a bunch of papers to be copied. Of course there were also some small copiers with a flap. At that time there was a student-trainee at the office. He was curious where the little box could be to pay the private copies. Well, we did not have any of such a box. If you do not exaggerate making private copies, such a box is not necessary, is it?

One day, Annie, a secretary, went to one of the big copiers to make photocopies of a bunch of papers. Too bad, out of order. Annie went to the other floor to use the big copier there. As soon as she put the bunch of papers in the machine and pushed the start button, Alice entered the room. Alice is a secretary of the same floor the copier was situated.

Alice: "What are you doing there?"

Annie: "I am awaiting the bus to Nowheresville," and she put on a strange face with an expression of "I do not understand what you mean". Well, anyone who asks knowing the answer can expect an unexpected answer. Alice adds: "... well say!", and she angrily walks out of the room, leaving Annie dumbfounded. Then Annie went back to her working room – with the copies – and sat down at her desk to continue her work.

A few minutes later Alice's supervisor calls Annie and asks her in an angry tone: "Why are you making my secretary cry?" Annie is not aware of any harm: "Huh, who cried because of me?" "My secretary urgently needed copies and you were standing there and you didn't make room for my secretary. We have all kinds of deadlines that we have to deal with that you do not know at the notarial profession. And then also such a stupid remark about the bus to Nowheresville!"

Annie: "We also have all kinds of deadlines in the notarial profession. Term for payment of capital taxes, term validity of declaration of no objection, term registration Chamber of Commerce, term payment of transfer tax, term passing marriage conditions. What do you mean we have no deadlines? And the bus to Nowheresville was just a joke. Pffff. Does Alice have a sense of humour anyway?"

Alice's supervisor the lawyer pulls out the tarpaulin. The civil law notary laughs his heart out at the incident and tells Annie that not everyone understands this kind of jokes.