

TØF-TØF CHUG-CHUG

Keld Jensen

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Tøf-tøf

”Jeg smutter lige over til lægen”. Ja, der var en gang, hvor et lægebesøg kunne overstås med en gåtur på få minutter i landsbyen. Sådan er det ikke mere. Min læge har nu til huse i en helt anden by cirka tolv kilometer fra, hvor jeg bor. Det giver mig anledning til en god cykeltur.

Cykelstien til lægehuset går gennem måske Danmarks største kær. Store dele af Østhimmerland består af tidligere stenalderhavbund. Senere blev det et svært tilgængeligt sumpområde, men nu er næsten hele området drænet og nogenlunde tørt det meste af året. Lindemborg Åen løber langs med store strækninger af cykelstien.

Rundt omkring denne oprindelige havbund tegner de oprindelige holme sig i horisonten. De lå som øer, eller holme, i stenalderhavet. I dag fremstår holmene som en blød bak-

ke med foden nede på den tidligere havbund. Engang har vores forfædre i små både ladet sig fragte rundt på jagt og samling og på besøg hos nabostammer.

Efter Middelalderen etablerede de lokale bønder stier og veje af udlagte ris for at deres husdyr kunne komme på græs ude i den våde sump. Mange steder har der været mere tørre pletter, hvor får og andre kreaturer kunne græsse, men det kunne være vanskeligt at komme derud uden at etablere midlertidige stier og veje. Et oprindeligt navn til en sådan vej var dengang høvejen. Der skulle jo også hentes hø ude fra det våde, næsten utilgængelige kær.

Før det blev til en cykelsti, var det en jernbane. Jernbanen mellem Aalborg og Hadsund forbandt mange af Østhimmerlands landsbyer. Undervejs på min cykeltur skal jeg gennem

nogle af de tidligere stationsbyer. Helt ude i horisonten mod nord kan jeg se røgen fra skorstenene på cementfabrikken ved Aalborg.

”Ok, så, du må godt sige som et futtog, men dæmp dig lige, hvis nogen kan høre dig. Og du må også gerne trutte højt, når du nærmer dig en vejoverskæring – du skulle jo nødigt tromle en mejetærsker ned.”

Det er nemlig høsttid. Vi er i slutningen af august måned. Sommeren er ved at være slut, og landmændene er ved at køre halmen sammen fra de store marker. Andre er allerede i gang med at pløje. Ude i horisonten mod syd truer regnskyerne. I løbet af få timer vil regnen øse ned og gøre markarbejdet umuligt på disse i forvejen ofte temmelig våde landbrugsarealer.

Chug-chug

“I head straight over to the doctor”. Yes, there was a time when a visit to the doctor could be completed with a short walk in the village. That is no longer the case. My doctor is now based in a completely different town about twelve kilometres from where I live. It gives me the opportunity for a good bike ride.

The cycle track to the medical centre goes through perhaps Denmark’s largest water meadow. Large parts of East Himmerland consist of former Stone Age seabed. Later it became an almost inaccessible swamp area, but now almost the entire area is drained and dry for most of the year. The small river, Lindenberg Å, runs along large stretches of the cycle track.

Around this original seabed, the original islets are visible on the horizon. They are located like islands, or islets, in the Stone Age Sea. Today, the islets appear as a soft hill with

its foot down on the former seabed. Once upon a time, our ancestors in small boats let themselves be transported around hunting and food gathering and visiting neighbouring tribes.

After the Middle Ages, the local farmers established paths and roads of brushwood so that their livestock could graze in the wet swamp. In many places there have been drier patches where sheep and other cattle could graze, but it could be difficult to get out there without establishing these temporary paths and roads. An original name for a road at that time was the hay road. After all, the hay had to be collected from the wet, almost inaccessible water meadow.

Before it became a cycle track, it was a railway. The railway between the towns Aalborg and Hadsund connected many of the villages of East Himmerland. During my bike ride, I

pass through some of the former villages with a now abolished railway station. On the horizon to the north, I can see the smoke from the chimneys at the cement plants outside Aalborg.

“Ok, so, you can make sound like a puff-puff, but calm down if someone can hear you. And you can also sound the horn when approaching a road crossing – you should not want to knock down a combine harvester.”

It is harvest time. We are at the end of August. The summer is coming to an end and farmers are gathering the straw from the big fields. Others are already ploughing. On the horizon to the south, rain clouds threaten. In a matter of hours, the rain will pour down and make the field work impossible on these already often quite wet agricultural areas.



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KOLOFON

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Chug-chug
By Keld Jensen*

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