Boer, William Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

Larry Wagenaar

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/ses_holland

Part of the Archival Science Commons, and the Oral History Commons

Recommended Citation


Published in: 1996 - 1998 - Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years" (H88-0234) - Hope College Living Heritage Oral History Project, November 11, 1996. Copyright © 1996 Hope College, Holland, MI.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral History Interviews at Digital Commons @ Hope College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years" by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Hope College. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.
Interview with William Boer
November 11, 1996
Interviewer: Larry Wagenaar

WB: Overhaul... and present were Benjamin Staal and Henry Weyenberg, and myself.

Weyenberg had thrown up a number of points against Cheff. Weyenberg was in charge of research, and in general in charge of installation, difficulties, and so forth. He was the chief mechanic, you might say, the chief engineer. He was quite smart. Now, he had thrown up a number of points against Cheff and so had Ben Staal, who was, at that time, the branch controller, whose job had been threatened, even though he had performed well. It turned out that Staal couldn't stand the pressure, went to Cheff, and told all about what had taken place. The result was that Weyenberg was fired, but later came back, a couple of years later. He told me that Mr. Cheff had requested him to come back, which I think was a lot of baloney. Cheff never requested anybody to come back who had left. Weyenberg asked to come back and join Cheff, and testify for Cheff, if he ever needed some by national boards, and so forth and so on. Then Staal, who also had drawn up a number of points against Cheff, went to Cheff, as I said, and gave the show away, and was promoted to treasurer, and stayed until the bitter end. Way to the bitter end. I can't understand why Staal and Weyenberg became pretty good friends later, because they both went to Florida at the same time. Anyway, that's in here.

LW: The material that you are giving me today.

WB: It says, "Copy of the Letter to Staal." But, I can't find the copy of the letter, so I
have the notation here. Copy not here, but discussion with Staal is enclosed. He subsequently repudiated his statements about Cheff, and stuck with him to the end. He implicated Weyenberg and Boer. I got fired and Weyenberg got fired, which was alright to me because I started the "Monkey Business" well before. Later Weyenberg rejoined Holland Furnace Company and stuck with Chef to the end. There is quite a bit of stuff in here, a lot of it, you know. It isn't necessary for me to go over this with you, because it's going to take a lot of time and most of it will be familiar to you. But there are some things that aren't. Incidentally, I feel sorry for Staal. He is still living. He is my age, 89, but he is blind in one eye and the other eye is failing too. So, I feel very sorry for him.

LW: Where does he live now?

WB: In Holland. As far as I know, he lives in Holland. It could be Zeeland. I know Zeeland's developed a lot. I think it's Holland.

LW: Well, I appreciate this material. I think that will be a big plus to the materials we have on the Holland Furnace Company. You played such a key role...

WB: A lot of it you can discard. Whatever you don't like, you know. If I can be of any further help, feel free to call on me.

LW: What I would like to do, we had talked about sort of doing an oral history, which is why I brought this along. Just sort of start with your birthday, if you will, and kind of walk through your history, and spend some time talking about Holland Furnace. I took some paper notes last time we were together, but we didn't record anything. I thought maybe it would be nice if we could do that. What will happen is, after the
tape is done, some point, in hopefully the near future, we will transcribe it, and you’ll have a chance to read that transcription and make any changes that need to be made to the transcription for accuracy. Why don’t we start our time together by you telling me when your birthday was and where you were born.

WB: I was born September 22, 1907 in Hillegom, the Netherlands. That’s a town, not a big city, but it’s a town between Haarlem and Leiden, right in the middle of the bulb fields. It’s beautiful there. That’s where I was born and that’s where I went to school. My father, in his younger days, he went to America. He had kind of an adventurous spirit. He lived in Holland, Michigan for a number of years and then returned. He met my mother, they got married. They had three children, myself, my brother Dr. Harry Boer—who, incidently, is at Breton. Now he has lost control of his mind. But he is the author of quite a few books—and my sister Beth, who is still living.

LW: When did you emigrate to the United States?

WB: That was in, let’s see, I was 15, 1922.

LW: Tell me about that time, the moving from the Netherlands to the United States.

WB: Well, it was quite a shock to hear what Dad was proposing. I thought it was a big adventure. We came across on the New Amsterdam, settled in New York City. Then my father accepted the job as bookkeeper for the Dutch bulb farm, Keur and Sons. But he looked at New York as merely a stopping point. He wanted to go back to Holland, Michigan. He wanted to own a bulb farm. So, he bought a plot of land on 24th St. He sold his bulb farm, and was quite successful. He also sold all of his
crops to Weller Nurseries. He made a good living.

LW: Then, you went to school, at...

WB: I went to High School in New York, as I had mentioned. I went to business college in Holland. I never graduated, but several months later, I got a job at the Holland Furnace Company at the very tender age of 16. I think I was 16.

LW: So, you haven't finished your time at the Holland business school, yet.

WB: No, I didn't finish there. But I realized, as I went along at the Holland Furnace Company, that I needed more background in accounting in general, so I enrolled in a correspondence course with LaSalle Extension University. That is a two-year course, I completed it in three. That was very profitable to me. Because at the same time that I studied it, I was in the general accounting department under Hub Ingham. He was a very nice gentleman, and he educated me and so forth and so on. I remember one time, I had to balance a bank that had 8,000 checks. What bank it was, I don't know. We had about 12 or 14 of them. Hub said to me, "I'll bet you a quarter you can't balance it first crack of the box." I said, "Okay, I'll take you on," and I won.

LW: How old were you with that?

WB: Oh, I must have been 18 or 19 at that time. He gave me a very good education in accounting. When he left, with the transition that happened about 10 years later, when Cheff came in, who had absolutely no experience in business. But he had been a foreman of one of the departments in the factory. He was quite a personality, tall, there wasn't a pound of surplus flesh on him.

LW: This is Cheff, right?
WB: Cheff. Kolla's daughter fell in love with him, and he married her. That's how he
get into the Kolla-Landwehr family. Then came the depression. Holland had a tough
time of it, but came out of it. Then came the War in 1940. We had all kinds of
contracts for the army and the navy. At the same time, we had one tremendous
advantage over other furnace companies. We would take the furnace out and ship it
back to Holland Furnace and remelt it. We could sell those furnaces, whereas as the
other companies could not manufacture. We had a tremendous advantage over rival
furnace companies. What Chef failed to do is to develop the line. He thinks systems
were coming out that could also blow in cold air, humidifying. Holland had nothing.
Finally, Cheff gave in and started to develop a very good line of what you call "laser"
furnaces-humidifying...

LW: Gas based?

WB: Gas, oil, and heating and cooling. Sales reached $40 million. The Holland Furnace
Company was very nicely situated. But, and here's the big but, Cheff permitted high-
pressure sales methods and didn't punish them. I wrote him a number of memoranda
about it. He never answered them. I couldn't understand the man. There was
something wrong in the upper chamber. I had to explain that in my book. I pleaded
with him, time and again, but he would not listen. It got from bad to worse.
Finally, I decided that I could no longer, conscientiously, stay with Holland Furnace
Company unless there was a change. I committed the cardinal corporate sin, I went
over Cheff's head to a few members of his board. One of them was Paul Cholette, a
well-known lawyer in Grand Rapids in those days. Paul said to me, "Now Billy, you
know what you’re doing? Because if I take action, you’re going to be involved.”
Well, I said, "Paul, look. I can’t continue any longer the way it is going. Either I give up my religion and whatever principles I have, and go along with Cheff, or else I get out, which I am willing to risk." That was the upshot of it. Paul brought up the mess to the board. Cheff soon found out that I was behind it. He fired me.

LW: What were the issues that you had brought to Mr. Cholette?

WB: The issues were that even though we had air-conditioning systems, they weren’t being pressed. That’s number one. Two, wholesale cheating was permitted. High-pressure methods by managers, which were not punished. The Federal Trade Commission had started an action against us. A number of hearings were held, and Cheff always tried to talk himself out of it, but would never concede anything and didn’t move a finger to change anything. Everything got from bad to worse. You’ve got my book. You can read that story at length and in detail. It was unbelievable. His board had no guts. He filled it with people who he appointed. He didn’t ask the board to appoint the new members. He appointed them, and that board followed. Cholette resigned and I think a couple of others. So, he filled it up with people who had, not necessarily the same outlook, but were willing for the sake of being a member of the Holland Furnace Company board, which I think paid $100 a meeting. It didn’t amount to anything, but that is what they got, expenses paid. It finally got to the point where, bankruptcy was staring him in the face. My place was taken by Oscar Vandendoorn, who was a C.P.A. with Lybrand Ross Brothers and Montgomery who audited the furnace company all those years. Now, Lybrand knew what was going
on. What they should have done, they should have incorporated it into their auditing reports. But they didn’t have the guts. They hung on. That happens more than you think, even today. I can’t think of the name of the company, right now, which was on trial with the Federal Government. But more and more Chambers of Commerce denounce this. Our license was taken away in Chicago. Our license was taken away in Minnesota. It got from bad to worse, until finally, bankruptcy.

LW: Can you tell me some stories from those high-pressure tactics in the field that you knew about?

WB: They did that with my own father in Holland. They came in and they inspected the furnace to be sure that there were no leaks and all that stuff. They would take it apart and they would leave it that way. They would say, "We will be back later." But they didn’t come back. So, when I got a call from my father who said, "Bill, that furnace is in the basement and it’s all apart." I said, "Dad, I’ll take care of it for you." I called Frederick Wulf and I said, "Get to my father’s house and fix it up." He did. But that happened hundreds of times.

LW: So they would take apart the furnace and not put it together.

WB: Then they would high-pressure them into buying a new one, because these parts were worn out, which was a lie, in many cases. That is what buried Holland Furnace Company. The competition was eager to take advantage of their weak points. They warned the customers.

LW: You mentioned also that there was quite a bit of stealing, in our previous conservation, stealing by the branch managers. Could you describe some of that
activity?

WB: Well, they would withhold money, you know. You knew the account had been paid because the customer had been contacted. They kept the money. They kept down payments and final payments and so forth and so on. But Cheff didn’t do anything to fight it. He permitted it. There was something wrong with that mind. That mind was not a normal mind. Period. It was a distorted mind, it was a crazy mind. It was a vicious mind. The final upshot was bankruptcy. Well, they were taken over by Chemetron Corporation of Chicago, a $600 million corporation. Years ago, they had taken over Holland Color and Chemical Company, for whom I had done some work. Well, when Chemetron bought all the buildings of HFC, they needed somebody in charge of accounting. They didn’t have anybody. Then, C.R. Trueblood, for whom I had worked, when he had his little color and chemical company in Holland, which had been taken over by Chemetron Corporation. He said, I know exactly the man you should have; I was introduced to the division manager of this part of the country of Chemetron Corporation. We had a couple of interviews and I became their controller. As I said in my book, I enjoyed it tremendously. I made some nice contributions to their accounting systems. I tightened controls. I ended up in John P. Kolla’s private office. (laughs) That is described in the book. Another thing Holland Furnace Company lacked was a pension system. So, when I retired from Chemetron, I got a $500 a month pension for the rest of my life. I’m still drawing it today. I must also tell you that there was a tragic end to Chemetron Corporation. They were a very prosperous corporation.
They had six or seven divisions, everyone of which was independent of the other. Now, you would think that they would have though (I didn't think about it at the time), that they had the controlling interest in that company. All of a sudden the president of Chemetron gets a call from a neighboring corporation, "Yesterday, we gained control of your company. We have the majority interest. Will you please report to us tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock?" That was that. That company sold every one of those independent divisions and kept the best one for themselves. A German firm took over the Holland division.

LW: BASF?

WB: Yes.

LW: Let's talk a little bit about Holland Furnace before Cheff took over. Can you tell me a little bit about the years when Kolla and Landwehr were in charge.

WB: Yes. In nineteen-hundred and five, John P. Kolla, who was French, who came from France, but had come to the United States, had the idea that he wanted to start a furnace company. And he did, he did organize it. A.H. Landwehr, who at that time, was a successful salesman--I don't know much about A.H.'s career before that time--A.H. Landwehr married Kolla's daughter and became associated with his father-in-law. A.H. was the power behind Holland Furnace. He was the idea man. Kolla was the idea man for the products. A.H. was for organization, honor, theory, "you go to jail, period," and so forth and so on. He educated him. "The Warm Friend" came out every month, a small booklet, filled with suggestions for better installations, for honesty, for willingness to call on prospective customers, even if at first you don't
succeed; call again. You might call "The Warm Friend," the monthly warm friend and the bulletins, the essence of honorable business dealings and hard work. That's what made Holland Furnace Company tremendously successful. Then there was that disastrous accident on Lake Macatawa. A.H. Landwher's son ran his boat into one of the big freighters and was killed. That threw A.H. off. There was a doctor in Holland, Michigan. I can't think of his name right now. But, A.H. was his patient. He was our doctor also. Sometime I'll think of his name. He predicted, on the basis of his knowledge of human nature, that something could happen to A.H. Landwher,

LW: He told you this before it happened? Or after the accident?

WB: Oh no, before. Something could throw off A.H.'s mind, according to that doctor. He predicted the event. And the event was when he lost his son. After that, A.H. lost his mind. He spent the rest of his not-too-many days left in the hospital. I think he died in 1937 and the accident took place in 1928.

LW: So he was depressed and never recovered from the loss?

WB: Never recovered.

LW: He ended up being institutionalized because of it.

WB: Dr. Winter, that was his name. Dr. Winter, he had an insight into the needs and the essential weak points of his patients. He was our doctor, very good.

LW: He knew that you worked for this man, so hence, you tended to talk about that.

WB: So, he predicted what could happen to A.H. if a certain event took place. That was the event.
LW: So, his son died and he progressively left the company? He was no longer in any office?

WB: After that, he was no longer a force.

LW: Is that when Cheff rose to the force.

WB: In the meanwhile, Cheff had married Kolla’s daughter. I do not know if Kolla had a controlling interest in Holland Furnace, but he had a big interest in it, a couple hundred thousand shares. Then, Ted Cheff became a member of the board. He did not become president right away. They appointed somebody else as president. I forgot his name, but it is in the annual report. You can trace that. They didn’t like the new general manager, the new president of the board, so they kicked him out. Either that or he resigned. I don’t know. I think he probably resigned and Cheff took his place. He was followed by Murhlenbrock who was a big stock holder. Murhlenbrock was president of the board for a couple of years. Then Cheff took over. Murhlenbrock stayed as a member of the board. The backbone of an honest operation had been broken when Cheff became the head of the company.

LW: That’s when the shenanigans started.

WB: That’s when the shenanigans were forgiven, the ceiling was hardly… They had a controller. I can’t think of his name, right now. He is in my book. One day, I got a call from Cheff, "I want him fired." I said, "Mr. Cheff, he’s the only one in control." (Yells) "I want him fired!" he says. So, I called him in. I said, "Look, I hate to do this, but I’ve been told that you are through." He was followed by a number of non-ententes. The stealing went on as much as 2 or 3 hundred thousand
bucks a year.

LW: You were the assistant treasurer at that time?

WB: I was secretary of the company. I attended every board meeting. I wrote the minutes. I had free access to Cheff any time I wanted to see him. I warned him. I said, "You can't continue this." "Don't worry about it. Just leave that to me." Then he got Chambers of Commerce against him.

LW: Did Ted get kickbacks from the theft going on in the field?

WB: That, I don't know. But he did a kickback on all the work that was done, repair work and so forth. One kickback I learned about a couple of years ago, that was somebody had suggested that they get a different control to regulate the furnace. The thermostat. We could get it cheaper, and it was just as good as any. But he absolutely refused. He said, "Ah, this is the one we want." It was a name company, incidentally, but they gave kickbacks. Each year Cheff received a check, personally--a kickback. I didn't learn that until long after my book had been written.

LW: What other kind of kickbacks did he get that you knew about?

WB: I don't know. I doubt there were any other kickbacks, but he took tremendous liberties with company money. The fellow who took care of his horses was on the company payroll. Any structures for the playgrounds where they had the annual festival. But all the employees were present. There were buildings on it that Cheff utilized, stables, all company capitalized.

LW: How about his home, Hazelbank?

WB: Well, they owned those, so there was nothing. But all the repairs there and all the
remodeling was also at the company expense.

LW: Tell me a little bit about the circumstances (you touched on it earlier, your going to Mr. Cholette), but can you describes your interactions with Ted Cheff? You then were fired.

WB: Well Paul Cholette, one of the outstanding attorneys in Grand Rapids, Paul had been outspoken at the way things were going. Cheff poohpoed it. As long as he did not absolutely rebel against him and threatened to do things, he didn’t do anything, you could stay as long as you want, provided that you didn’t interfere with him. Now Paul had given expression to his misgivings a number of times. There was no policeman on the road that was in charge of installations to check them. There were various national organizations, Chambers of Commerce, others, who were ganging up against us. What was Cheff going to do about it? Oh, he was in contact with them. He was conducting correspondence with them. He wanted to work out something that would be satisfactory to all. But he never did anything about it. So finally, I went to Paul. I said, "Paul, I can’t continue any more. I don’t know about you. But, as secretary of the company, as keeper of the books, I am not going to engage in any accounting cover-ups. I refuse to."

LW: Had things gotten to a point where losses were starting to be more evident?

WB: The profits were still there, but were continually decreasing. They were still making good money, but you could tell, compare 1948 to 1950, each year there was a decline, decline, decline. I said to Cheff, "What is it going to end in?" Well, as long as you were nice to Ted, and you didn’t interfere with him, and he always had
reasons to tell you that it is going to improve, you could stay as long as he felt he needed you. And he needed me. You have to have a secretary, you know, in charge of accounting. So then when I came in with the unforgivable and the unpardonable act of going over his head to the board of directors, Paul Cholette, specifically, and he had a couple friends with him on the board. That became known the Cheff, so that was the end.

LW: Now you had also sent a letter of resignation. Tell me about that.

WB: Oh yes. I worked on that letter of resignation.

LW: This is after Ted told you were done.

WB: Let's see, the board hadn't approved of it yet. Because he fired me. So I worked on that letter of resignation, I bet, a couple of days, weighing every word and so forth. You have a copy of it. It is in my book. It was six or seven pages. I defended myself. I told them, in that letter of resignation, that unless a radical change took place, the days of the Holland Furnace Company were numbered and bankruptcy awaited them. It was just a question of time. Well, that was the end of that. My successor was Oscar Vandendorf, that's also in my book, who had been for years with Lybrant and Ross Brothers and Montgomery. He took my place. I told him, "Oscar, you're going to have to fend, but the best of wishes to you." Then I got a good taste of what ethics mean, even to bigger firms, like Lybrant and Ross Brothers and Montgomery. Nationally known, well liked. Oscar Vandendorf had to put up with Cheff right away. He said, more favorable results. I could tell, by looking at the statements, that was what was happening. I had nothing to do with Oscar, but I
met him one day. He said, "I just resigned from Holland Furnace Company. They called me, the 'bald-headed bastard.' " I have a chapter in my book about the 'bald-headed bastard.' He was in a hurry to go. I was at the point of saying, how could you put up with that? How could your company, a reputable company? Because they did.

LW: How long did he work there after you had left?

WB: He worked there from 1953-1959. Six years. For six years, my friends from Ross Brothers and Montgomery were willing to certify false statements. Now, the last statement they issued, I don't know how many pages, but that finally laid bare the whole business.

LW: In 1959?


LW: So it was after they had ceased business activities that it was finally revealed how bad it was?

WB: The mind of Cheff always defied the imagination. We never issued, particularly, quarterly statements, but after Oscar left, in one year or two years, Cheff issued quarterly statements. One year, it was really ridiculous. The first quarterly statement, I think, was in 1960 or 1961. In 1962, or 1961, he issued quarterly statements. The first one was bad. The second one was worse. The third one was still worse. (laughs) You'd think that he'd quit issuing statements. At the end of that year, he resigned.
LW: Cheff did?
WB: Yeah.
LW: There was nothing left to do, right?
WB: Nothing left but the husks.
LW: Okay, tell me about what happened to Cheff after he resigned, from what you know of it.
WB: Well, he went to jail, you know. The National Better Business Bureau were after him. Finally, he was sentenced to jail. He appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court confirmed the sentence. He was condemned to Federal Prison, six months. Well, he served 49 days and his wife was dying, so they let him go. But he was in jail. After that, nothing was heard any more of P.T. Cheff.
LW: He became a recluse after that?
WB: His wife passed away. A year or so later, he married the daughter of his secretary. She must have been 24 or 25 years old. That was it. He was not heard from.
LW: He died, obviously, just a few years ago.
WB: I can't think of the name of the church, but Katie, his wife, went to that church.
LW: His first wife, or second wife?
WB: The first. Her minister had high regard for her. But, he couldn't understand her husband. Maybe he never had a very serious talk with her. Otherwise, he would have had to ask her, how can you stand for what your husband is doing? I'd like to believe that Katie was a sincere Christian woman. But lacked the guts to talk to her husband, to tell him to lay off. She could have fired him.
LW: Because she had the controlling...

[Begin side 2]

WB: ...with that family. Ted Cheff's father was a minister in the Reformed Church in Zeeland. I have no reason to believe that he wasn't a sincere man. But Ted never went to church.

LW: Do you think that he rebelled against his upbringing?

WB: Yeah, I imagine. I also think that the discipline was lacking in that minister's family. Then he and I would argue at lunches. He brought up the religious question a few times. I don't know exactly what it was about any more, but I told him what my convictions were, period. (Sound of hitting table). I remember, as he said, "You know, a good whack across the knuckles in the best discipline in life." I took issue with him on that. I said, "I don't doubt that a slap across or a knock across the knuckles is maybe a good form of discipline, but unless it is backed up by something more substantial, it doesn't mean a continental." I told him that outright.

LW: Other thoughts on your time at the Furnace Company, or anything you would like to share?

WB: Well, I was happy to become the secretary, but I didn't know what I was getting into.

LW: (laughs) But you were the first elected secretary, back in what? 1937... Well, assistant secretary. That was before Cheff took over.

WB: Then Cheff said that they had always had CPA's where he fought against or used my name in Better Business Bureau hearings. I was the first one who was not a Certified Public Account. They always had a Certified Public Accountants. Which wasn't
true. But the last one, Tahaney, was a Certified Public Accountant. The ones before
that were not. But anyway, I was not a certified Public Accountant, so, how I
arrived my figures, he couldn’t understand. Maybe I wasn’t a very good accountant.
He didn’t say maybe. He said I wasn’t.

LW: Why did Tahaney leave.

WB: Well, Tahaney, Bill Tahaney and I got along fine. He was an honorable man. I
don’t think he had much of any religious convictions, but I had various talks with Bill
Tahaney about things. One day Cheff called me from Washington D.C. He had sold
a couple of horses, and the guy wasn’t paying. No, it was a horseman friend from
Washington D.C. and he was visiting with Cheff. He borrowed, I think it was
$8,000 from Cheff. Cheff called me to issue a check for him for $8,000. I issued it
because I hadn’t gone deep enough long enough with him. But I told Bill Tahaney
about it. He said, "I wouldn’t have issued it if he had called me." Well, I said,
"Bill, after all, he is the man in charge." I was only the assistant to Tahaney, so I
did fine. Then the guy couldn’t pay him back, so he said, "Katie and I are going to
go Washington." They were starting to start action against this fellow. "Now, I want
you to keep me informed as to exactly what is going to happen, but I don’t want
Katie to know about it." He hadn’t told his wife. So he says, "You will find a way
to let me know." So, I found ways to let him know: the weather wasn’t very good
in Holland, it was cold, or the sun hasn’t been shining recently, in the case that
there’s no progress.

LW: You had gotten any money.
WB: So when he finally started an action against him, he said he should behold the horses. He took care of the horses in Washington. They hired a lawyer and they got the $8,000 back.

LW: Did Cheff regularly ask for company money to do personal things like that?

WB: No, they were all incorporated in bills, because he had somebody in charge of repairs. I can't think of his name right now. It is in my book. That's one thing that's a handicap for me, at the age of 89, I'm getting forgetful. I meet people on the street and I know them, and I can't think of their name. But anyway, there were constant repairs being made, changes in the homes of Cheff and Landwehr and others. That was all charged, mainly to company expense.

LW: That's quite a story.

WB: Well, it's an unbelievable story. It a story of corruption, but there is plenty of corruption in business today. You've seen ads about the AVM Corporation. They're deep in difficulties with the federal government. There are a number of others. If you have a president, now for his second term, when it comes to morals, he doesn't amount to any more than P.T. Cheff, as far as I am concerned. I don't vote either Democrats or Republicans.

LW: Well, we won't get into current politics. I appreciate you taking the time to chat with me. I've got a form here, this is simply so we can place our interview in the Archives with the rest of this material. Let me fill this out a minute. Today's the 7th of November. It's amazing how fast this year has gone by, it seems.
OBITUARIES

William H. Boer, 91

William H. Boer, 91, of Grand Rapids, died Saturday, Jan. 16, 1999 at Raybrook Estates I of the Holland Home.
He was a member of various Christian school boards, a bible teacher, an elder in various churches, a consultant to the Holland Christian Schools, and comptroller for the Barnabas Foundation.
He served the Christian Reformed Denomination as chairman of the Standing Advisory Budget Committee and participated in campaign fund drives for Christian Education.
Boer worked for the Holland Furnace Co. for 29 years and wrote the book titled "The Holland Furnace Company Tragedy, An Insiders Lament," and was comptroller of Holland Suco.
Surviving are his wife, Frances; three sons, Robert and Judy Boer, Warren and Joanne Boer, Randall and Pamela Boer; brother, Harry R. Boer; sister, Elizabeth Batema; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Agnes and Alfred Bulthuis, Myrtle Tuls, Bernice and Tom Liervense; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.
Services are 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Raybrook Manor Chapel with the Revs. Scott E. Hoozee and Robert Koornneef officiating.
A private burial will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery.
Visiting is one hour prior to the funeral.
A committal service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Prospect Park Christian Reformed Church in Holland with Dr. Warren Boer officiating.
Visitation is 10:30-11 a.m. at the church.
Memorials may be made to the Patient Assistance Fund of the Holland Home.
Arrangements by Zaagman Memorial Chapel of Grand Rapids.

Julius Genzink, 71

Arrangements are pending by the Mulder Chapel, Dykstra Funeral Homes.

Helen Edith Haynes, 77

Helen Edith Haynes, 77, of Holland, died Saturday, Jan. 16, 1999 at Appledorn Living Center.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth in 1998; son-in-law, Paul Marcotte; and brother-in-law, Ray Nickerson.
Surviving are her two daughters, Patricia Marcotte of Holland and Janice Haynes of Hamilton; sisters, G. Ruth Nickerson of Holland, Peggy and Ray Sansoterra, and Marian Stahl, all of Detroit; three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.
Services are 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church, 284 Maple Ave. with Rev. Stephen Dudek officiating. Burial will be in Graafschap Cemetery.
Visiting is 10:15 to 11 a.m. Tuesday. Memorials may be made to Hospice.
Arrangements are by the Mulder Chapel, Dykstra Funeral Homes, 188 W. 52nd St.

Sally O. Luna, 59

Sally Oreleen Luna, 59, of Pullman, died Friday, Jan. 15, 1999 at her home.
She is survived by her husband, Joe; sons, Jim and Jack; brother, Bob; and sisters, Adeline, Grace and Gladys.
Services are 1 p.m. Tuesday at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 10560 S. Black River Road with Rev. Patrick Phillips officiating. Burial will be in St. Marys Cemetery.
Memorials may be made to the Patient Assistance Fund of the Holland Home.
Arrangements are by the Mulder Chapel, Dykstra Funeral Homes, 188 W. 52nd St.

CRASH: Jackie Greathouse of Detroit and her granddaughter their automobile, middle car, as Michigan State Police troopers and a so-called "black ice" contributed to the accident.