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## Hornstra, Winifern Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

Tracy L. Bednarick

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The Hope College Oral History Project for 1996  
The Joint Archives of Holland

Interview #14  
Mrs. Winifern Hornstra  
Holland's Past Fifty Years

Conducted by:  
Tracy L. Bednarick  
July 31, 1996

Abstract (subjects appear in relations to general order of interview): Personal history, Hoeback Highway Construction, Holland compared to Grand Rapids, Holland in WWII, post WWII changes, construction of 24th Street, ration stamps, wealth of Holland, better jobs and entertainment in Holland, a more liberal Hope College (less affiliation with the RCA), lower crime rate, less shipping out of Holland, less discipline in schools, Edgar Prince, Harrington school district take over by Holland, Central Park Church, influences of churches in Holland, increase of different cultures in Holland, Evergreen Commons, the Vocational School, Tulip Time comments, appliance "firsts," raising her children in Holland, families, bus trip coordinator, the Vietnam ward, childhood in Grand Rapids, and childhood pranks.

Interviewee: Winifern Hornstra (WH)

Interviewer: Tracy Lynn Bednarick (TLB), Oral History Student Coordinator

TLB: If you could just say your name for the tape, your date of birth, and where you were born.

WH: My name Winifern Hornstra; it was Winifern Koster. My maiden name was Koster. I was born in Byron Center, Michigan. I am eighty-seven. I was born in 1909. The [date removed].

TLB: How long did you live in Byron Center?

WH: Until I was twenty-five. Byron Center, and Grand Rapids it was.

TLB: Why did you come to Holland?

WH: My husband was employed by a company in Holland. So we came here.

TLB: What company?

WH: It was Hoeback Highway Construction.

TLB: Could you tell me a little bit about your family, when you meet your husband, and if you have any children?

WH: I have two daughters. Mary lives up at Onekema, and Ruth lives here in Holland. She is employed at Holland Hospital. So is her husband, Carl Dailey. I met my husband when I was about twenty, and we were married when I was twenty-five. His parents and my parents were friends years before, but I actually didn't know him that way. Then I met him through other friends. I was welcomed into his family, because his family knew my family from years back. He didn't have any brothers or sisters, so I didn't inherit any brothers or sisters. I had three brothers and a sister from my own family. They have all passed on, and also their spouses. I am the only

one left of the family. They aren't any in-laws. That is a lonely feeling sometimes.

TLB: Yes. What were your first impressions of the city of Holland, when you moved here?

WH: I was thrilled with it, because it wasn't a large city. I had been used to Grand Rapids. Holland was smaller, and I could get around better. My children were in school, and it was a nice school. Harrington School. Later in my life, I worked in Harrington School for fifteen years. I ran the hot lunch program there. It was kind of on the outskirts of town at that time. I've always liked Holland. It is a neat city.

TLB: How is Holland different from Grand Rapids? You said it was smaller, is there any thing else that stands out as being different?

WH: People and churches are more inclined to be faithful to their religion here, and there are several churches. Holland probably has as many as Grand Rapids, at that time. Holland is more or less family orientated. I found that out when I came here. I didn't know anyone, and if you didn't know anyone you had to work on it to get acquainted. Even to this day, so many times people will say, "You should know her." What they don't realize is that I didn't go to High School here. I just don't have that background. People that I know I have met since I came here, but not from childhood. My roots are really in Byron Center, and Grand Rapids, because I went to school there.

TLB: What were your interactions with the people of Holland like when you first came here?

WH: I was warmly welcomed, I will say that. We moved in next door to good neighbors, who were glad to have us there, because they hadn't had good neighbors. They came

through, and they just did everything for us to get us acquainted, and in the church. I really felt that people went all out for us to welcome us.

TLB: So you would have been living in Holland during World War II?

WH: Yes.

TLB: What was it like in Holland during the War?

WH: The first ten years that we were married, we lived in Forest Grove, which is a little town south of Hudsonville, east of Zeeland. We lived there during the beginning of the war, before we moved to Holland. So we came to Holland, it was toward the close of the war. We didn't know too many of the boys from Holland that were in it, however we did know a lot of the boys from the Hudsonville and the Forest Grove area. One of the boys from there was killed in France, and another one from Byron Center that I knew really well was killed on V-day. By the time we got to Holland, we had kind of changed our field of interest in the boys to include the ones in Holland, which we didn't know very well. Then a couple of boys at the church that we attended here were killed too. It was hard times. We didn't have any money, and everybody was in the same boat. Everyone was struggling through that.

TLB: What was it like when the Veterans returned from the war?

WH: The day that peace was declared my neighbor came over just screaming and hollering. "Gay is coming home, Gay is coming home." "The war is over." It was her husband. We hugged each other, and danced. We were so glad the war was over. Then we got in the car, the two of us, and went into Holland. Everybody was out on the streets. Everybody was cheering and hollering and greeting everyone. Of course,

I didn't know too many people at that time, but I was with her, and she was so happy. It meant so much to her, and it did to me too. My husband didn't go; he was a little bit too old for the service, so I couldn't quite feel like she did. She was so happy that her husband was coming home.

TLB: Did Holland go through any changes when the Veterans came back?

WH: Yes, I think that they did, especially in work. Those boys had to have their old jobs back, or new jobs. About that time, some of the new plants were coming in too for employment for those boys. Our next door neighbors, who I said were such good neighbors, had a boy who served in Africa. He came home, and he had quite a time getting a job at first. Just about that time things began to pick up in industry and business. However, they had to make work for these boys coming back. That never really affected our lives, because my husband kept the same job through-out his entire working years.

TLB: Did he have more business after the War was over?

WH: Yes, then things opened up a lot. However, he didn't work right on highway construction, he operated a gravel crusher that crushed gravel for new roads. It was road construction, but indirectly because he was crushing the gravel for cement and so forth. The first ten years that we were married he worked on this gravel crusher all over the state of Michigan. We travelled in a travel trailer. We followed the gravel crusher. They took contracts with all the different counties; they would crush gravel, and stock pile it. A few months later, or a year later we would have to go back to that same gravel pit, because that county was running out of gravel. We

would have to crush more for them. We had about eight or ten men in our crew, all with travel trailers. So we were quite a parade when we would start out for another town or county. I guess I had more nerve than most of the women, because they didn't dare drive very far. Of course, my husband had to drive the big truck pulling the crusher. I always followed him with our car, and the travel trailer. After about five years of that I had a baby. Then I had her, and the dog along. Those were the first ten years of our married life.

Finally he came to Holland on a job here. It was constructing 24th Street, when that was first paved. That took a year. Then he told his boss that he would have to find some other work, that he couldn't travel anymore, because our girl had to go to school. So then his boss said that he would give him a job right here in Holland so he wouldn't have to move. He took that, but that only lasted a couple of years. Then his boss opened up a business in Grand Rapids. For over thirty-five years my husband traveled to Grand Rapids everyday, still working on a gravel crusher in a gravel pit in Wyoming. That has been our life--crushing gravel.

TLB: What were some of the typical things that people had to deal with during World War II? Were there any problems that people had to deal with?

WH: Ration stamps for one thing. One thing that we ran into, we working in Detroit on a job. The merchants their would not give us meat, or sugar, because they had very little of it and they were saving it for their regular customers. We were strangers, so we couldn't buy anything with our stamps. So we told our boss that we would have to go home, because we couldn't buy any food. And another thing, our gasoline was

rationed. We were so far from home that we couldn't get home on weekend. So then one day he came, and he had been somewhere. I know where, but I can't tell. He had purchased black market butter, and beef. He came in my travel trailer, and threw a quarter of beef on the counter. And I had to get busy and can it, because what do you do in a small trailer with a quarter of beef? You don't have a freezer; we had no freezers in those days. The other people working with us, they also got beef and butter. He had the trunk of his car full of butter. He had a trailer behind filled with beef. Then we could stay on the job for a few more months, because he came through and helped us. Rationing was strict. Some people could trade a little bit. They would trade food stamps, for gas stamps, or gas stamps for food stamps. But you never had enough. I kept some rationing books for souvenirs.

TLB: How have the general problems of Holland changed since World War II?

WH: Financially I think that Holland is quite a wealthy little city; I really do. Now with their malls, and their outlets it is a different story than it was in those days. There has always been a good input. Business has been good. We are far enough away from Grand Rapids, so that most people trade right here in Holland. Some of them go to Grand Rapids, but I would say that the city of Holland has done quite well financially. The merchants too. I think that Holland is a wide awake town. I think that the city fathers had enough foresight to build a mall and the industrial park. That was the beginning of our inflation. I think we had some smart men on our City Council at that time, with futuristic views to develop. The city has come a long way. We were just a little nucleus when we came here; now it has really spread out. When



you compare the population of Holland with the population of the North-side, that is almost as large as Holland now. That has come a long ways too.

TLB: How did daily life of the citizen of Holland change from when you first moved here?

WH: With jobs, things came in that they never had before, such as bonuses and pensions and insurance. A lot of those things have changed on one side of the coin. On the other side of the coin, our art, literature, and entertainment has all developed. I think that we have a good culture here in Holland. We have a lot of good entertainment. With the college here, they have brought a lot by the way of sports, and enrichment of the whole neighborhood, and city. I think that without the college we wouldn't have come as far as we have. I think that it has been good for the city.

TLB: How has the college changed?

WH: Well, it has become quite liberal for one thing. There was a time, I suppose, in the beginning, although I don't recall that when, where the teachers and the students were all church going and affiliated with the Reformed Church. That is not true anymore. Their students are from all over. They are all faiths, and all religions. They are from foreign countries. Their professors, and teachers are more liberal. And they too, are from different areas, and different backgrounds. It has made a big impression on the city, because what was just a close knit college is now open wide to everybody.

TLB: That's true. What are some qualities that seem to stand out in the city of Holland?

WH: We have never had the crime rate that other cities have had. That speaks for itself. Being a senior citizen, I have noticed all the things they do for senior citizens. The

quality of life for senior citizens. They have had a lot of good programs. Of course, with Evergreen Commons things have just "mushroomed" for the senior citizens.

I think that Holland is an outgoing city for everyone. With the influx of more Spanish people, coming through Heinz industry here, we have had to be flexible. This is a good thing too, because like I said, Holland was close knit. Now they are wide open. We all need to have our eyes open to other nationalities, and other peoples. That has been good for all nationalities who have come to our city..

TLB: What are some negative aspects to Holland, or any drawbacks to living in Holland?

WH: I am glad that I can't name very many. We have crime. We have a police force that is very busy trying to hold it down, but according to the news that I hear on the radio and TV I think our crime rate is at a minimum compared to some of the other cities. I listen to Kalamazoo station quite a bit, and between Kalamazoo and Three Rivers there is a lot going on that I wouldn't want to live with in Holland. I think there isn't too much on the negative side, because there is so much employment here. Almost everyone is employed if they want to be.

TLB: What are some of the biggest changes that you have seen in Holland since World War II?

WH: Oh goodness. Shipping is not what it was. We used to have many big freighters come in here. We don't see that anymore. The college has grown a lot. It has expanded into different fields that they didn't have to begin with. In the sports too. The downtown area has all been renovated: the heated sidewalks, and streets. I think that this is a plus for the city. Our transportation system leaves a little bit to be

desired, but they are working on that. There's hopes for something better. Our Dial-a-Ride has kind of served its purpose, but it has outgrown itself. They will have a new program before long. The new Padnos Center is quite a nice addition to the city. It speaks for transportation, however, I do wish that there were bus services from other cities to here. I would like to go up to Traverse City by bus.

TLB: Instead of going to Grand Rapids, and then up?

WH: Yes.

TLB: What do you think some of the causes of some of the changes in Holland have been?

WH: Like I said, there is a lot of employment--very little unemployment. That speaks for a thrifty city. I think that there are progressive people here. They pursue their education, and with that comes better jobs, and better living conditions all the way around. I think we have a good school system. I have been acquainted with the school system for several years. Like I said, I worked in the school. I have met some wonderful, wonderful teachers in the school system. That alone is a big asset to a city.

TLB: Do you think kids have changed much since then? How have they changed?

WH: Yes. When I first started in the school all they had to do was reprimand them and they would toe the mark, but now they don't hear the teachers. And the teachers are restricted in their punishments, and so forth. At the time I was in school, a teacher could punish a child. They could set them in the corner. I don't mean physically punish them, but they could either send them home to their parents, or sit them in the corner or a storeroom somewhere. They can't do that anymore. For instance, one

time, there was a boy who got in to trouble. His father was called to the school. The principal called me in too for the interview with the father. He wanted to know if I had any trouble with this boy in the dining room. I said, "No, I didn't." But he had gotten into some other trouble in the school.

So the principal said to the father, "Do I have your permission to give the boy a licking or a spanking?"

The father said, "Yes, go right ahead, and when he gets home he is going to get another one from me." Well they don't do that anymore.

TLB: I remember when I was in elementary school they still did that. Has there ever been any controversy in Holland?

WH: That all depends on what you mean by controversy. I am thinking about when Ed Prince was getting on his feet in Holland. He was doing things for the city, and there were some people that resented it. They said, "Well, I suppose Prince did that again." But after a few years they began to see that Prince had more love for Holland than they did. He was doing things, because he loved the city, and he loved the people of the city. The people had to change their thinking about the things that he did. That in itself was quite a change for some people. But in the end, everybody loved and respected Ed Prince. But it took some doing.

My husband used to say, "I like that man, but I am supposed to love him.

That is going to take a lot of work." That was the case with Ed Prince.

TLB: Any other things that you can think of?

WH: That lead to the development or betterment of Holland? Well, they have been very

selective in their Council members, and their Mayors, City Managers. They have had good ones; I have thought. We lived outside the city of Holland. At one time I resented the city of Holland very much, because they took over our school system. The school that I was in, Harrington School, was a wealthy district because we had so much resort tax money in Macatawa Park, and Jenison Park. Very few children were in the school from that area, but that was a good tax area. There were expensive places out there. It was a wealthy school. It looked good to the city of Holland, Harrington School. We fought to stay out of the city. Of course we lost, because when we voted on it our vote was thrown in the barrel with all the votes from Holland. Then I was kind of bitter for awhile toward the city of Holland. I resented it, because we were doing so well in Harrington with our tax dollars. Then Holland came in and took the money that we had. That hurt.

TLB: How did you get over it?

WH: I had to, I was working for the school system, and I had to.

TLB: Have you been involved with the church in Holland?

WH: Yes, it is Central Park Church. It is only a mile and a half from here. I have been involved with that church ever since I came Holland.

TLB: What is your impression of the churches and Holland? Are churches in Holland different than other cities?

WH: I don't know about that. Many of the churches in Holland now are having a struggle. I would say that the larger churches are taking over. Why this is happening? I don't know. We have a struggle in our church, because we are losing families to the larger

churches. For myself, I would never go to another church just because it was a larger church, or I thought that they had a better program. I would try to improve our own program in some way, rather than going to theirs. This is a hard question to answer why people do this, but on the whole I think that the churches are very compatible. For instance, I have neighbors right here from the Catholic Church that burnt. They are so thrilled that the Protestant Churches came through, that the Reformed Churches came through and offered their facilities to them. They have been using Hope College Chapel for over a year now. Also Third Church. They are so thrilled by it, and they are so happy by it. This man, who is my neighbor tells me that this is something that never would have happened ten years ago. He says that the churches have opened up. They have opened their hearts up to us. He says, "We have made some wonderful friends. I can just not get over how we have been welcomed into their buildings."

TLB: Wonderful. Do the churches in Holland have more of an influence on the city, than in other cities?

WH: I think so, because the city council and the city fathers are all church going people. If you are a church going person, or a Christian you spread that around. Your life is wrapped up in it. So when you work on the City Council, or in a manufacturing plant, or a business of some kind you can't help to spread it around. If it is your life, you are going to tell about it. You are going to spread the news. I think that that has been a big thing in Holland. They come through and say, "We just can't do that. As Christians we can't sponsor that. We can't do it. We can't approve of it." I think

that that has made a big difference in the decisions of the city fathers. I think Holland has a plus in the fact that they have so many churches, and so many people who attend churches. I think that is a good thing in their favor. I have been in places in Florida, cities the size of Holland, where maybe you'd see just a handful of churches, maybe five or six. That is all they've got. They can't cover the entire city. That is for sure.

TLB: What do you make of the increasing amount of different cultures that are coming to the city of Holland to take up residency?

WH: I think that it is good, it hasn't hurt us to give, and to take a little. There was a time in my life when I had had no contact with a Spanish speaking person, a Mexican, or a colored person. I never had an opportunity to mix with them, or to have any dealings with them. You didn't have much of a chance in Holland, but I have been out in the world some and this is good. For instance, years ago we never would have seen a taco place in Holland. These Dutch people never would have eaten pizza, or tacos. They do now! That is just a light example. That is how our lives have been affected by these people. It is not all bad. There is a lot of good to be said for these people.

TLB: What does the community do to help people fit together in the city?

WH: Well, Evergreen Commons has been a big factor. I have a lot of respect for Evergreen Commons. Community Ed had been a good thing. I have been to some classes at Community Ed, and you just got to mix with all people, and that is good. The fact that they have to employ everybody, regardless of race, or religion is good.

Of course, that is true in other cities too, beside Holland. It has worked out real well, I think.

TLB: What about industry in Holland? What effect does industry have on the community? And what about Holland has helped industry?

WH: Industry is a big thing in Holland now. The industrial park coming in on the south side of Holland was the beginning of it. At first, we couldn't believe it--all the new plants that had come in on the south side. Then the north side started to expand. Industry, I haven't seen figures on it, but I would say tripled from what I remember from before. We have a lot of pride in our industry here. We have a lot of industry that requires college educations for their employees, which has been good.

And we have this wonderful trade school north of Holland. The Vocational School. That has been tremendous, because I know several people who went there for their vocation. They couldn't afford to pay for college, or didn't want to spend three or four years in college. They just went there for a year or two. For instance, I had a grandson who went there, and learned cabinet making. He's got a real good job now. Always has had. He was employed by this man before he even graduated from high school, because he was going to that trade school, and he was learning that trade. He stayed right with that employer, and I am sure that is true of others too. They have a good school. I go out there quite often, and I see some of the things that are going on there, some of the courses that they are teaching. It is good.

TLB: I didn't even know Holland had such a school.

WH: Yes, it is a big school, and it is a good one. Very good.



TLB: Concentrating on Holland, how do you think the role of women has changed since World War II?

WH: Many of them went to work during World War II, and stayed on their jobs after World War II. Likewise, their daughters went to work when they were married. A lot of the women here were employed. We have women in good positions. We have women who are doctors, lawyers, and in business for themselves. I think that in that respect Holland is keeping pace with other cities.

TLB: Can you tell me what you have heard others say of Holland, such as family from out of town, or friends from out of town?

WH: Around Tulip Time you hear a lot of remarks. The first one is, "It is a pretty town." The second one is, "It is a clean town." Next is, "Everybody is so cordial." "You are so welcome here." "Everybody is friendly." "Everyone is helpful--giving directions, and information." I would say that most of those comments come from people who are out of town, and visiting here at Tulip Time. When I tell people that I live in Holland their first response is, "Oh, that is a nice town." "I like Holland." I think that Holland has a good reputations all over the state.

TLB: How has Tulip Time changed since World War II?

WH: I remember going to Tulip Time maybe between '40 and '45 to the parade. The parade didn't last very long, there were spectators on the streets, but not to the depth that they are now. Now they are packed on the streets to the walls of the buildings. If I remember right the parade ended just beyond the Tower Clock on 8th Street, maybe at Pine. The floats were all handmade, and made by students and volunteers.

The parade has developed where it is just a beautiful parade. The entire city has taken over on the care of the Tulip Lanes. Protection of them, that is the big thing. There are a lot of other things taking place, at the Civic Center, by way of entertainment. They have always had the flower show, as long as I can remember. That is a good event. It has improved through the years quite a bit. There have been a lot of changes. For instance, they have had to have control of everything, including traffic. I think that it is very well managed. You see all the effort that goes in to it. I think along with that, we have to remember the parents that have children that are in school, and are in the Dutch dancing, or the parades and all that. A lot of that effort starts right at home with the mother, with the parents.

TLB: Sewing the costumes, and everything.

WH: Yes, when my daughter was a Dutch dancer we didn't even have dryers. I know one year it rained everyday. She came home so wet. All those petticoats had to be dried, because in two or three hours she had to dance again. I had no dryer. I ironed, and I ironed to dry those clothes out. It was the only way that I could do it. I said that the mothers worked harder than the dancers did.

TLB: When did you get a washer and dryer approximately?

WH: I would say between forty-five, and fifty years ago.

TLB: Can you think of any other chores that you had to do early on in life that you don't have to do anymore, or that have changed a lot since then? Household chores?

WH: It is so easy to get meals now days, because you can get such a variety of foods. That is a big item. Automatic washers and dryers are wonderful things. Vacuum

cleaners. When I started keeping house, I didn't have a vacuum. I wet a broom to sweep. I would get a broom wet to hold down the dust. [tape flips here and a small portion of interview is lost during the flipping of the tape] (Added in transcription process: I was glad to trade my ice box for a refrigerator.)

Very few people owned boats, very few. Very few people got outside the city of Holland to do anything. My husband was a fisherman so we went up to Canada, and we went to Northern Michigan. We got out of Holland in the summer time, just because he loved to fish.

We have got a lot of things to work with now that we never had then: coffee makers, electric mixers. I remember the first electric mixer that I got. Vacuum cleaners, freezers, power lawn mowers.

TLB: What was it like raising your children in Holland?

WH: It was wonderful. You could let them go downtown at night. You didn't have to worry about them. You knew the families that they associated with, the girls that they associated with. Holland wasn't that large. You could keep in contact with each other, with the children's parents. When I think about it now, I wouldn't want to raise a family now. In those days, kids didn't think that they had to get in a car and drive to Grand Rapids. They were happy to stay in Holland, because there was a lot to do. They were contented. They were satisfied with just doing things here. But in later years, when my grandchildren were growing up they had to go to Grand Rapids for their entertainment. They were on the road, and I didn't like that.

It is the same way with college. Kids were satisfied to go to Hope, but later

in the years other colleges opened up. They had to go somewhere in another state; they had to get away from mom and dad. They had to get away from home, so they took off for a college somewhere way off across the country. I think that when I raised my children in Holland it was the best time. At that time it was about the best time to raise children. Everything was safe and clean. There was no drugs. There were no liquor problems. After drugs came in things changed.

TLB: Have you had any turning points in you life that have brought about a change or anything like that?

WH: No, I can't say drastic change. When my children got married and left home, that was a change, but otherwise no. Never had a death in the immediate family. That would make a big difference. Like I said, I have lost all my family. I have my daughters yet, and their families.

TLB: What are you daughters' names?

WH: Ruth Dailey, is the youngest. She lives here in Holland, and works at Holland Hospital. Mary Kuipers lives up at Onekema. Her husband is a school teacher. Ruth's husband works at the hospital too. The Kuipers have been in Onekema over twenty-five years. She has held civic jobs there. Right now they are opening up a little antique shop, because her husband is retiring in October. They are in to antiques. My daughters, Ruth and Carl Dailey, just came back Sunday from a boat trip. They have a boat, and went up to Mackinac Island and back for two weeks. They left Holland in their boat, and boated all the way up there.

TLB: I think that is all my questions, do you have anything that you want to add about the

history of Holland? What it was like when you first came here, and how it has changed?

WH: Like I say, I am not a native of Holland. The church, we have built a new church shortly after we came here. It was in fifty-two, I think. That was a change. There have been fires. I've noted in the city different things have happened that way. The only change that I can think of, is all this industrial change. And the expansion of the college.

TLB: When did you first go to work for the school? How did you decide to go back to work?

WH: I had been asked to work in the school kitchen. I said, "Oh no, that is the last job I would want." But three years later they got me in there. And three years after that I was running the program. I don't even remember what year that was. I think that I have been retired for about twenty years from there.

TLB: How old were your kids then?

WH: They were in high school. One was married, and one was in high school. I was with the school program for fifteen years.

TLB: Do you have anything that you want to add about your history?

WH: For a number of years I had a bus business. I secured a bus for a certain date, and I made out my plans for a trip. I would select a five day trip, maybe a two weeks trip. I got my motels, no computers at that time to help me. I remember writing over one hundred letters to get hotels in Denver, because there was a convention on the week that I was scheduled to be there. I just could not get a motel. Finally, I wrote to the

Chamber of Commerce there, and they got me something. I had bus trips for twelve years. I went to the Eastern seaboard. I went to Nova Scotia, and all down along the Eastern seaboard. I went to up in Canada, several places, Yellowstone, Glacier Park, down into Arizona, and Indiana, Chicago, Washington D.C. That was when I was working in the school. I would have my bus trip all planned and lined up when school let out in June. Then my husband and I would be on the road with the bus, maybe three trips in a summer. Maybe four or five if we had shorter ones. I had the same driver for most of the same trips. I would engage a bus and a driver right in Holland. That was a lot of fun, and I enjoyed it. After my husband became ill, and then after he died I couldn't do it anymore. That was a nice business. Can't say that it was profitable, but it was enjoyable.

TLB: Did just you and your husband go, or did you have other people that came too?

WH: I had forty passengers on it.

TLB: So it was a whole business.

WH: Yes. My husband and I had a little mini-home. Quite often we would go over a weekend, and scout out a place, and make arrangements for our motels, meals, and everything. Then we would take the bus on that same trip. After we were both retired we spent thirteen winters in Florida. Well, I did; he spent ten. I went on to thirteen. We had a little mobile home down there, and then I sold it and came back here. I sold my home here too.

TLB: I think that is it. Not too bad.

WH: I had a busy life. And eventful life. An enjoyable life. I can't think of any part of it

I would have changed.

TLB: Are there any events that stand out that you didn't mention that happened in your life?

WH: On my bus trips I was in Washington D.C. in 1976. That was quite a memorable year, because they had that big celebration at that time. I was quite thrilled to be an American to be there to take in a lot of those events: the fireworks, the parades, the different things that took place at that time. At that time, you could go on tours through the White House and the Capital Building. You can still go through the Capital, but you can't go through the White House anymore. That year stands out in my memory, because that was meaningful for me.

We had so many bus trips through battlefields in the East, a year or two before that, like Gettysburg, Valley Forge, and Brandywine, and Appomattox. So many of those fields we had toured with the bus tour. So when '76 was celebrated, I was right in with the spirit of America. My country!

TLB: Do you remember what the Vietnam War was like in Holland? How Holland reacted?

WH: During that war there was always a question in my mind, and I think in a lot of other people's mind, "Was it necessary?" "What did we accomplish?" If you talk to the boys that were over there, they had mixed feelings about it. I, myself, think that it was one war that we could have done without. But they said it was necessary.

TLB: Where there a lot of people that objected to the war verbally in Holland?

WH: No, not that much, I don't think. I think that we went along with it pretty well.

TLB: Compared to some other cities?

WH: Yes, I know in other cities there were riots.

TLB: Okay, anything else?

WH: I can't think of anything else. I think that you've got my history now.

TLB: Okay. [end of interview]

(some post interview conversation)

WH: I think that I have more pictures of myself as a child than most people have, because I had a sister who was thirteen years older than I. She had a camera, which was something very few people had. She developed her own pictures. You just didn't take them to the drugstore in those days. So I've got a lot of pictures of myself as a kid.

TLB: Do you remember some of the things that you did for fun when you were a child?

WH: Played in the barn, played kick the can, and wild geese. I remember in school the way the classes were conducted. I remember the spitballs on the ceiling. We had a hill in our school yard at a Byron elementary school. A lot of kids didn't even own a sled, so we slid down the hills on a slab of wood. We would throw water on the hill at night or before we went home in the afternoon, so that it would all be ice the next day. That is one of the things that I especially remember--playing on that hill. I "cooned" watermelons from the neighbors. Halloween was a big night. Everybody went out, and you bothered the neighbors. You would rapt on their door, put tin cans on there door knob, and tic tacks on their window. Do you know what a tic tack is?

TLB: The little candy?

WH: Oh, no. You took a big spool of thread, a large spool, and you made a lot of notches



in it. You put a pencil through it, or something to hold it against the window. Then you took an end of the thread and you would just run with it. One would hold it on the window, and then one would run with it. That was a Halloween trick. It took a lot of nerve, because if someone came out of the house the one that was holding it on to the window was the one that got caught.

TLB: The other person could just keep running. Okay, I think that is it. [end]