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Schipper, Vern Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

Beth Marcus

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Oral History Interview with
Vern Schipper

Conducted October 28, 1996
by Beth Marcus

Sesquicentennial Oral History Project
"150 Stories for 150 Years"

Sesquicentennial Oral History Project
Interview with Vern Schipper
October 28, 1996
Interviewer: Beth Marcus

BM: Okay, this is turning so it looks like its recording and we are all set to go. This is Vern Schipper and Beth Marcus. The date of your birth was what?

VS: August 10, 1927, Zeeland Hospital, Zeeland, Michigan.

BM: You're a little younger than I am. You were born in Holland. When did you come to Holland for the first time?

VS: I came to Holland at Hope College as a freshman. My father worked in Holland all his life even though we lived in Zeeland. My dad started to work in Holland at the Holland Furnace Company when it was an infant company and he rode the interurban to work every morning and walked up Columbia Avenue to the Holland Furnace Company, to the old office building. He, along with Staney Curtis and Dale Van Lente's dad, Mr. Al Van Lente, were pioneers with that company. They saw it go from one of the most wonderful places to work and serving our community to no end to where it finally all broke down.

BM: Tell me about your family, your wife and your children?

VS: My wife's name is Isla. Her maiden name was Streur. Her father was a contractor and builder here in town and they lived on South Shore Drive. Prior to that they lived on 18th Street. They went to the Maple Avenue Christian Reformed Church.

BM: That's where I was baptized.

VS: Oh, for goodness sakes! Mom worked in the real estate business for Issac Kouw. He

was kind of Holland's premier realtor and mom worked for him. Dad was a contractor and I worked for him as a college student. That's how I helped pay my way through Hope along with my war bonus from World War II.

BM: We'll get into that a little bit later. You lived in Zeeland how many years and then you moved to Holland?

VS: I was in Zeeland until I was 18 and I had to go into the service. When I graduated from high school, every eighteen year old was immediately drafted into the service. So I went into the service, and then I was out for a year and then I came to Hope.

BM: What are some organizations that you have been involved in? How did you get involved in them and what were the purposes of those groups?

VS: Well, I taught here in Holland for several years at Holland High School and the E. E. Fell Junior High School for Bernice Bishop which was a great experience. It just was a great time in my life. Isla and I were newly married. Isla taught special ed over in the Junior High School and then later on opened the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in town and taught second grade. So I belonged to educational organizations primarily. While working there I ran the Alumni Fund for Hope College one year for the local area. That's how I started really getting involved with my college. Some years later, when Gordon Van Wylen came as president, Harvey Buter who had been on the Holland Board of Education knew that I was sort of looking for something. Gordon, in turn, was looking for someone to run a financial campaign at the college. Harvey Buter along with Gordon Van Oostenberg, who was my pastor at Trinity Reformed Church and was on the Board of Trustees, suggested my name to Gordon

and that's how I ended up working at Hope. I'll never forget that. That's the first time in my life I've been ever hired for a job and when I said I'd take the job the first thing he said, "Vern, let's start our time together with prayer." Typical Gordon.

BM: What are some of the biggest changes that you've seen in Holland in the past fifty years?

VS: Well! Of course, the changes in Holland in recent years are unbelievable in terms of growth. Growth of the community. I've served on the Holland Chamber of Commerce Board and one of the things I've observed - we have an excellent leader in our Chamber of Commerce - but industrial growth is just unbelievable in this town. We are so blessed and so fortunate to have companies...you know we talk about the Prince Corporation and the Haworth Corporation. We have some national companies like Parke-Davis. Companies that have a real dedication to employees and are very successful, and each one of those companies has contributed very uniquely to the community. I would say the industrial growth has been a phenomenon that is unbelievable. That's reflected then in traffic patterns, busyness, - all that sort of thing that goes with it.

BM: Have you yourself in a sense been involved in any of those changes over the years?

VS: Yes, primarily the school district change was one I was heavily involved in. When the Holland School System re-constituted itself, enlarged itself, I was a part of the committees that worked and studied on that. Originally they had an annexation plan for the whole area and that's a story in itself how the school district decided they would not accept anyone in school unless they became a member. They had to join

the City of Holland, too. That was the beginning of the West Ottawa School system, a top notch school system. Then Hamilton also went on their own but the school districts contiguous to Holland, like Lakeview and Harrington, became a part of this community. I was a part of those studies of population growth and so forth when Walter Scott was superintendent and that was all put together. Had a lot of fun doing it too, by the way.

BM: That always makes it interesting, doesn't it?

VS: The Holland Chamber of Commerce has a history of being a real leadership group and the Chamber is an area chamber of commerce. In some ways, it's too bad the schools didn't go that route and become area schools. But that's the way life is, you know.

BM: Now you came to Holland from Zeeland. What were your first impressions of the City of Holland?

VS: I had a very positive impression. I knew it well because my father worked here. We came to Holland for a good share of our shopping. I remember as a young boy going downtown with my mother and dad on Saturdays and going to Gerrit Van Zyl, a professor at Hope College, who had a boy's shop downtown in Holland and that's where we would buy my clothes. We'd go to Spauldings Shoe Store, which was just two doors over from Van Zyl's store. So we came to Holland almost every Saturday or else we'd go to Grand Rapids and visit my mother's sisters and my uncles in Grand Rapids. So Holland was very familiar to me. Although my real knowledge of Holland came as a student at Hope College. So many people there have made it

possible for me to know the community far beyond anything I ever expected. When I got out of the service the second time I came back to Holland and taught in the Holland School system.

BM: What did you teach?

VS: I taught psychology in high school and I taught English and geography in the Junior High School. Had a lot of fun doing that!

BM: What are some of the qualities that stand out concerning the city of Holland?

VS: Well, more than anything else I think it's the people. The people of Holland, to make a general statement, are very genuine and very sincere about the love of their community. You may not always agree about what direction some of them want to go, but they're genuine and sincere in their beliefs. They have a set of principles and values historically that has always cropped up any time a community issue comes in. In other words, integrity, honesty, truthfulness are just characteristic of how things are done in Holland. A person doesn't last very long in this town that's not a person of integrity. I've seen people come and go that made a big flare when they showed up, but if they're not a person of integrity, they're not going to last in this town.

BM: Are there any negative aspects you see to this city?

VS: Well, we are always accused of being somewhat parochial in our attitudes over the years, and some have said we're a little bit snooty. In other words, you can't get to know people very well in Holland. I, of course, do not find that to be true and maybe that's because I'm a native Hollander. But the people I worked with in the school system, and we hired a lot of new people from all over the place, most of

them felt very welcome and very warm towards the community. I think you were dealing with concerned and interested parents and that helps. But the only thing would be that there's a little bit of a standoffishness around our community. We always kid ourselves, you know, "Be careful who you talk to or who talk about because they're probably your relatives or someone else's relatives." But in the long run, I think that characteristic has been to our advantage rather than to our disadvantage.

BM: Do you see any drawbacks in living in Holland?

VS: Only in recent years, it's getting so busy around here, but that has to do with my age, not with the community itself. Holland has been very blessed by having such a variety of industry. The growth here is just unbelievable, and that could be a disadvantage too.

BM: Are you involved in the church?

VS: Yes, I've been involved with the church for a long time. We've always attended the Reformed Church in America. We've been at Trinity and now we're at Christ Memorial. I've been active on the Board of Theological Education of the Reformed Church in America. I served on that Board for two six-year terms and found that a most rewarding experience. I enjoyed it very much. I've served as both vice-president and clerk of my consistory, and as vice-president and president of the Holland Classis of the RCA. Great experiences!

BM: Very good. I'm going to go through that experience next year as president.

VS: Yes, I know!

BM: I'll see what its like. What is the role that the church has played and is playing in Holland would you say?

VS: I don't think anyone is going to be successful in Holland long unless they understand the relationship of the church to the community. It's like we often talk about Hope College. You know Hope College, Holland, and the church can almost be treated in synonymous terms. Although we have lots of new people, we have some new churches. The churches play a significant role in giving guiding principles to people to live by and I still feel that is a characteristic of our community.

BM: Have you seen changes in the church over the past fifty years?

VS: Oh goodness! We talked about this a little bit earlier. Probably most of the changes have been in the last ten years. Holland churches are being affected by the same type of pressures that the churches are nationally. How they can relate better to young people, what can they do in terms of activities. You see it in terms of the kind of music their using in churches and the way music is directed in churches. Churches are doing a lot more sponsorship in terms of helping the poor, helping people with needs, being supportive of community activities through Community Action House and others. Those are not associated as so with a given church, but several churches are behind it.

BM: Like Habitat for Humanity.

VS: Habitat is a good example.

BM: Have you ever experienced any controversy in Holland?

VS: One of the greatest controversies I ever experienced was when we went through the

school reannexation in Holland. That was a very controversial issue. When the Holland Public Schools was working with the neighboring school districts on how they were going to organize to furnish high school education to young people, that was a very controversial issue in our community. In some ways there's a bit of an unfortunate experience to it. I think in the long run the community is better off. We've got a fine school system in the West Ottawa system, a fine system in Hamilton. Holland continues to be a leading school system. We can be critical but overall, I think all three school systems along with Zeeland have done an outstanding job. But it was a very controversial issue to deal with. It will be interesting to see what happens in the next few months as we talk about an area center. Those things take area wide support to make work and I just hope that's the sort of attitude we develop in our community, that we want to work together.

BM: With the townships as well as the city.

VS: Sure.

BM: How has Hope College changed over the years?

VS: Oh goodness! Size for one thing, of course. As you well know, tuition has changed a lot, too. People forget in a hurry that a young person going to Hope College today, and this applies to any young person going to any college. When I went to college, and I'm sure it was true when you went there, basically as a student either we went on the GI Bill which was true in my case or we were able to earn enough money in the summertime to pay our tuition - two or three hundred dollars. You went out...a lot of the activities took place on the college campus in terms of your social life. You

probably had a fifteen or twenty dollar cost in the fall for a formal fling of some kind and the same thing in the spring. That was the extent of your expenses. Today our kids going to college take on a lot of debt. It's unbelievable! We lose sight of that. These young people are going out of college with twenty, thirty, forty thousand dollars of debt on their head. The first few years, when they get out, that's what they end up paying back. To me, that is a challenge not only for this community but as a nation, we're going to have to look hard at. The GI Bill that I went to school on was one of the greatest things that ever happened in America, because every single one of us who had gone on the GI Bill had paid more money back than we ever got from it because of our increased earning power. I could argue quite legitimately, I think, that we ought to provide the same kind of experiences for our young people today in terms of making education more available to them. I really believe that. That's the big change at Hope. I'm not saying it's costly to go there. I think it is well worth it! It's worth every dime you pay. The values they teach, the principles they stand for. Marian Stryker, my dear friend at Hope who was the alumni director, always said about compulsory chapel, the primary purpose was to make it a place where boys could meet girls in a Christian environment. There is more truth in that as I look back on my own college experience. However, I could argue quite legitimately in many ways the college has more Christian aspects about it now than when I was on campus. We had required chapel, that's true, but the commitment to values and understanding, and the program of the chapel now at the college is voluntary but they pack that place three days a week and I can't believe that! That's really quite an

exciting thing. And, of course, the growth. When Gordon Van Wylen came to Hope College, he had talked to Roger Heyns, a former Hope person who was at the University of Michigan, and he was considering coming. Roger Heyns said, "Hope is a little jewel. It's a diamond, but, boy, its campus is really in the rough." When Gordon came here he spent a lot of his time and effort in redoing our buildings. It was under his leadership that they were able to start raising some really big money. Up until that time, the most money we'd ever raised at Hope College was "Looking Ahead With Hope." I think that was seven or eight million. Well, I came to work on a campaign for eleven million which was called "Build Hope." We raised about fifteen or sixteen million in that campaign. Our last campaign was fifty million and we raised fifty-seven million. So there's no comparison. Gordon provided that kind of leadership. He just was a natural at doing it. John Jacobson's following those footsteps.

BM: Actually Dr. Lubbers was known for some of that too, wasn't he?

VS: Oh! Irwin was on the Board of Trustees when I came to Hope. I spent a lot of hours with Irwin where he would suggest people I should call on in various areas of the country when I worked in college advancement. Irwin was a real key to success in fund raising. My friend, Jim Lugers, who recently passed away in Holland, always would joke about that. Because Jim said that Irwin was that type of person...he was so smooth he would call you and invite you over for dinner, but he always was honest enough to tell you that he had a purpose in inviting you. Jim was not a Hope College graduate and he lived in Holland, but his first gift to Hope was to help put a roof on

the front of the Dean of Women's home. He jokes about - it was just a couple of thousand dollars - but Irwin wanted that project and that's the one he outlined for him. Over the years, his last major gift to Hope was our new fieldhouse. He paid for it lock, stock and barrel - a marvelous and wonderful gift. So it went from four thousand dollars to two hundred and fifty thousand. That's not too bad!

BM: How do you think the community feels about Hope College?

VS: I think it's very positive. Every once in a while you have a little something, but overall the feeling of the Holland community is that we're one. The mayor, the council, have been very supportive of Hope. Once in a while there is a controversy about the closing of a street or the kids don't behave or something like that, but I would encourage residents to remember - at Hope College we have basically 3,000 students all who are within four years of graduating from high school. You think about your own children as they grow up and how they are as high school students living in your home under your discipline and your control, and then you send them away to school where they live in dormitories (Hope is a residential school), it's an entirely different experience. So the college has to take a responsibility for the student beyond the classroom. The difficulties we've had over the years usually have involved students living in a home in the neighborhood or something like that. But that really shouldn't surprise us. In fact, I'm surprised we don't have more of that, it's actually to a minimum. There's no question that as Hope expands there'll be conflicts in terms of where it expands. Originally, we had thought at Hope that we would expand southward from the campus. Then a few years ago, under the

leadership of Ed Prince, we started to look at revamping of the downtown. Ed felt very strongly that Hope should look northward and help invigorate the downtown. So the development of Freedom Village, that whole area East Eighth Street, Ed Prince worked with Gordon, and Gordon still works with him to this day. That whole project of the redoing of east 8th Street and Hope moving in that direction really is a result of that effort. It's been a very positive experience.

BM: We have a beautiful downtown.

VS: Oh! Gorgeous. Merchants downtown will tell you in a hurry they can sure tell when Hope is in or out with students (laughs).

BM: How do you think the public reacted to the changing of Holland to becoming more of an industrial city that occurred during the mid-fifties and the late sixties?

VS: Well, probably what helped that take place with the least amount of conflict was the fact we went through a wartime experience. In fact, two of them during that time. There wasn't much alternative. The Holland Furnace Company was a major employer and was a good employer. Hart and Cooley was a register company brought here by Holland Furnace Company literally. But those companies, during the war, became war time suppliers as did the Bohn Aluminum Company and some others. So the idea of industrial development was more accepted simply because there was a need. The need was so great, no one would even think of not supporting the war effort. You know, there was conversation at one time that the furniture industry was working awfully hard to keep industry out because they wanted to maintain lower wages and less benefits and so forth. I don't think that's true at all

anymore. Our furniture industry in Holland is most successful. The Herman Millers, the Haworths, Trendway, they're all companies that pay top dollar, they're highly sophisticated and their management is recognized nationally for the quality of their management. We should emphasize here that the Prince Corporation is a story in itself. Competitive wages, it's been a godsend to the community as far as providing opportunities for people. Just been great.

BM: But with the wars and the change to more of an industrial city, brings a diversification in population. What have you seen and how do you feel that has been affecting Holland?

VS: The Presbyterians, the Methodists are all enjoying growth and that's great. The Catholic Church is enjoying wonderful growth. All that's great. That's something for us who have always been here probably find a little difficult to accept. When I was a boy growing up in Zeeland I'd joke about this so often. I didn't become aware of this until I was in the service. You know, we had two Catholic families in Zeeland then, maybe three. Frank Dionise (and he was open on Sunday so he was "bad news") and George Cable who had a hatchery and he took hatch off on Sunday. So both of them were looked down upon. However, its always interesting, Frank Dionise would've gone broke if we hadn't gone there and bought the Sunday papers from him. So we kind of kid about it but that's all change in the community and I don't think its a change we can do much about. Really, Holland's made a pretty good adjustment to that as a town. Holland High School has more Merit Scholarship winners than any other school in the area and yet they have the largest Hispanic

population. So they must be doing something right.

BM: When we talk about diversification, how do you feel the Dutch heritage plays in the community today? How does it interact with these other cultures that are coming into our community?

VS: I think the leadership in the community is doing very well. As I look at our mayor, city council, people like that, they work awfully hard at developing good relationships between a variety of groups. It probably applies mostly to the Hispanic segment of our community. I think our religious heritage shows up...we elected Luciano to the city council from the ward around the downtown area. That's all the result of the council changing its makeup so that you could be elected from wards rather than at large. That was the first time where a Hispanic could be elected because he came from a ward. Overall I think we've done very well. There's shortcomings in it, there's no question about it. We find it difficult to accept some of their styles around their homes - the way they decorate and so forth. But over all I think we've done extremely well, extremely well. I think that goes back to a religious ethic that demands toleration and acceptance of other peoples. The Reformed Church has a remarkable history of going everywhere in the world and meeting people and bringing the gospel, so why shouldn't we bring it right at home and practice what we preach.

BM: Yes! We have mission fields around the world but they're right here in our back yard.

VS: That's right!

BM: Have the problems facing the general citizens of Holland changed in the past fifty

years, and if they've changed, what are some of those changes that you see? How about crime in our city today?

VS: We're talking about one of the most serious issues we have and that, of course, is an issue not unique to Holland. We're pouring thousands of dollars into programs through the police department, through the council, through various groups that deal with crime. We're talking about one of the more serious issues, and I think as community we haven't found out how to deal with this just yet. It's a tragedy to think that the streets I knew as a kid, the girls I dated lived on 14th, 15th and 16th Streets, 17th and 18th. To see those neighborhoods where sometimes you're reluctant to drive through. I'm determined to drive through them regardless. I feel that the majority of people in those areas are just as interested as I am in having that it be a good neighborhood. I'm not going to let a few bad apples spoil that for us. But we do have a serious problem here. The police department spends more money and more time and effort in that area of the community than any other. Sometimes they're criticized for this. You're always arresting those kinds of people, but that's where the problems are. Fortunately, we've got some Hispanic families that are working hard at doing better in helping the police department to meet that. But that's a real challenge. That probably is the single biggest issue we have facing us as a community.

BM: Which leads me to ask, how is your daily life different than it was ten, twenty or forty years ago?

VS: Sure is a lot better! I'm not so old fashioned to say I want to have the old days back.

Oh, I can wax long and nostalgic at all the wonderful things I did as a kid growing up and around the community and all of the relationships and developments. But actually when the bottom line comes, economically I'm a lot better off. Homewise, I never dreamed I could live in the kind of home that I do, drive the kind of cars I drive, go to the church and build a new church and have all the excitement associated with that, belong to a community organization. Everything is on the upswing. Do more, build more. We're just in a very positive area, and I think we're a lot better off than if we were in a negative area.

BM: Now back in 1951. Can you remember back that far? That's forty some years ago. How different was your day then from what it is today? Of course, now you're retired, right? You were a schoolteacher?

VS: I graduated from Hope College in 1951. So I was a student at Hope in 1950.

BM: Then when you graduated from Hope you...

VS: Went to graduate school right away.

BM: Oh you did! Where did you go?

VS: Michigan State. I got my Masters degree, came back to Holland, taught school here...I should say I went to the Korean War first for two years...then I came back to Holland and taught school here. That's what lots of my friends were doing.

BM: For how many years?

VS: I was in the Holland school system for eleven years.

BM: Then you went to work for Hope College?

VS: Yes, but I had a little internship, I worked for Harpek and Row Publishing Company

for four years in between there.

BM: Your major responsibility at Hope was fund raising?

VS: Well, I started out as the alumni director. I replaced Marian Stryker and organized alumni groups all around the country. I had a wonderful experience with that. Bob De Young, the vice president - and that's Bob's great strength in administration - saw me as a person who had the contacts for fund raising. Then we brought in John Nordstrom, I worked actually for John, and I was responsible for Grand Rapids, Detroit, and areas that I knew best.

BM: That's when they began to get more staff.

VS: That's right. They staffed that whole area.

BM: Certainly one place to start was the alumni, no question about it.

VS: No question about it. I joke about it because my class had their class reunion last year, our 45th. When I started working at Hope, if we had one class that would raise ten thousand dollars we would be shocked. That was more money than we ever dreamed we could raise. We raised a couple of hundred thousand in the Annual Fund. Well, today they raise a million and a half or more. The last reunion, I was in charge of fund raising for my class, and we raised sixty-eight thousand dollars. Classes raising 15, 20, 30, 40 thousand dollars are not unusual now. That's a big difference!

BM: It says something about Hope, too, doesn't it? How people want to support it.

VS: Yes, it does.

BM: I have another question about industry but I think maybe we've talked about industry

enough. Think of these questions and see if you have a comment. What do you make of industry in Holland? What effect does it have on the community? Where would you speculate Holland would be without it and how has Holland helped industry?

VS: Holland has provided an environment for industry to succeed. I remember the first Chamber meeting I went to, and we had an industrial planner from Grand Rapids talk about Holland and saying you guys have everything going for you. You're known as a beautiful city, you're known as Tulip Time. Everything positive. But you've got to develop an industrial park. That was the beginning of the HEDCOR organization. So the city of Holland and the Holland Economic Development Corporation are really responsible for the development of the industrial park. Holland would be nowhere without the industry it has. I remember one of our councilman, Clayt Ter Haar, saying to me about the area along Waverly Road when there was talk about a shopping mall. He said, "Vern, the best thing that ever happens if an industry moved in there, because then we'll really get a tax base." Now that's where the Prince Corporation has its research and development center. Just tremendous! Actually, our city council has been an enabler to make that possible to happen. Every once in a while we have a little conflict about something, but overall when it came to the redevelopment of downtown, overall the council made it possible to happen. Not without some controversy! When Hope was expanding downtown, there was some controversy. But the bottom line was everybody got their heads together and made it happen. That's why I'm optimistic about the area center. I think we can talk about it

a lot but the bottom line will be that we'll do a great job with it.

BM: Wherever it's located?

VS: Wherever its located.

BM: We'll have another Van Andel? (laughs) Wouldn't that be something?

VS: That would be something. Well, we had a presentation at a Chamber breakfast not too long ago by David Fry who chaired the Grand Rapids Committee that built the Van Andel Arena. That's the only suggestion he had for us. He said "you need to get some more "big hitters" on your committee."

BM: Can you tell us a little bit more about what it was like after World War II? What about during the Vietnam War, or any other war. You mentioned the Korean War, I think. Then more recently, Desert Storm. How did we operate or react to all these things?

VS: Well, the most significant difference that I see - this has a historical perspective to it. During World War II, when I was in high school and immediately following, you had to make up your mind when you turned eighteen you were going into the service. Number two, every person at home, in the communities, their life involved the War. Your churches had stars that they put up for every serviceman. Servicemen came home and they were introduced in their worship services. When they walked down the streets they were looked up to. We had rationing. Our whole effort was to be successful in the War, a total country commitment. I 'm not arguing for this, I'm just saying that's the way it was. When I went downtown in Holland at 11:30 or 12 o'clock at night, it was as busy as it would be anytime of the day because factories

were leaving out. The midnight shift would change. You'd go downtown to the restaurants and they would be all packed with people going to and from work. Fafter Bearing, now Hart and Cooley, Bohn Aluminum, Holland Furnaces anchor chain plant, all these plants were busy 24 hours a day. When I was called in the Korean War and went overseas to fight, my wife lived at home as if there was no war on. I wasn't there, but she could drive her car, she could buy a new car if she wanted, she could get gas, she could get sugar, she could get meat. She could have anything she wanted as if there was no war on. The Korean War is the first time our nation fought a war where the homefront did not make the sacrifices that were made by the people everywhere else. I think, in my opinion, that was reflected again in the Vietnam War. When we got into the Vietnam conflict I stayed home but I lived as if there was no war going on. However, there was one significant difference and there have been research studies done on this. Television put the war in our living rooms. When I was in Korea fighting we were just as fouled up as they were in Vietnam. We had as many difficulties, that's what I'm trying to say. But you didn't see it. It came in the newspaper two days later. There was a heroic dimension to it. During World War II we went to the theater to see a movie of the planes flying over Germany. Once in a while you saw one shot down but it was an armada. We saw the ships at sea. In the Vietnam War we saw the gruesome side of war right in our living rooms. We didn't see it just on Thursday night, we saw it Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday. Correspondents were talking about it. I think television has had a great effect from that standpoint than any other single item in terms of our

communities. I really believe that.

BM: How you think about Desert Storm which was so recently. There again we saw...

VS: Yes, but remember the president made a very basic decision. The press was kept out of Desert Storm. Argue it one way or the other. I heard a presentation on this at our Hope Academy of Senior Professionals just a couple of weeks ago. They kept the press back and let the soldiers do the fighting. They held press conferences and press releases. They did it that way. So you didn't have the photo like you did in the Vietnam War of the fellow shooting the fellow in the street. They kept the press out. So I think there is a fundamental difference. George Bush had done a great job of getting a coalition to fight it which helped us a great deal. We weren't in there alone.

BM: Have you ever noticed a generation gap between ages here in Holland? Where, when and why?

VS: I've been very lucky. I don't notice it because I've had a lifetime of working with young people. I like them. Working on the college campus, working in the high school or junior high school, gives you a younger outlook on life. I think it's easy for us as adults to go home and talk about all the troubles of this and the troubles of that, but if you work with young people, you find a lot of great kids out there. There is one significant difference that I see. When I went to school (we were talking about this at my high school class reunion last year) "What happened to so and so or so and so?" You know, anybody in your class that the school system didn't feel had the smarts for high school, they didn't go. A lot of those kids became excellent employees at Herman Miller, Colonial, whatever have you. But they did not go to

college, they didn't go to high school. Today, the public school has all of the children of all of the people all of the time - good, bad, indifferent. That affects the school program. You've got to learn to work with people who years ago would not even be there and provide them with an opportunity to learn. That's a tremendous challenge for a teacher to do that. I take my hat off to the teachers that are able to meet that challenge. That's a big difference. So I'm saying that when we hear about problems in the school, those are problems that would not have been in the school when I was in high school. Those kids didn't go. They went to work. Big difference!

BM: What kind of relationship do you have per se with the younger generation? Any specific organizations that you're in that you deal with?

VS: Not particularly, but I go to the college two or three times a week. I sit with kids. I know kids. We've had them working in our college advancement office. I ran phonathons and had students do that. Gee, I can't get over how good these kids are. You run a phonathon to raise money, and they can outraise money over us as adults any day of the week because they listen and do things the way they're supposed to be done. I'm impressed with them.

BM: Yes. I've enjoyed them too. Is there any one job that you had in the past fifty years that you particularly enjoyed and why?

VS: I had more fun working in the office of college advancement than any job I ever had in my life. I consider it the highlight of my experience. Often people say to me, "Vern, how can you go out and ask people for money?" You know, it isn't hard at

all if you're asking for a worthwhile cause. Since retirement I've been invited to head campaigns for a number of organizations. I have one simple reason for turning them down, because what I know about fundraising I learned at Hope. What I know about the resources that people have I learned at Hope. So I would not be fair to my college if I used that. However, I don't hesitate to do fund raising for my church. That's fine. I just recently did a program on how you raise money for our local organization. I would be glad to do that because there are basic principles of fundraising just like there are in anything else, just like there are in mathematics. Two and two makes four. There are principles of fundraising too. But I always remember one of the first times that I went on a fundraising campaign. Gordon Van Wylen and I went with the president of Calvin College. We were driving to Detroit to raise money for the Michigan Colleges Foundation and Gordon asked the question of the then president of Calvin, "How do you feel about going out and asking for money all of the time?" I'll never forget his answer. It was a very simple one. He says, "Gordon, I'm never ashamed to ask for money for Calvin College." That was a real lesson. I was never ashamed to ask for money for Hope College. I feel our students and our people are deserving of that level of support.

BM: Did you ever have a job you didn't like?

VS: Not particularly. I think in life you have to look at the good side in everything no matter what. If I told you I loved the service, I would be foolish, but I got along fine. I made some friendships. Today, Isla and I have a couple in Akron, Ohio, that are probably two of our best friends and I met him in the service. He was a graduate

of a college near Akron, Ohio, and when he came into my outfit I saw his name and I wanted him to be my assistant. We became lifetime friends. I think you've got to make the best of bad situations.

BM: How do you think the role of women has changed in the past fifty years in Holland or in these environs?

VS: Well, first of all, it's been changed for the better.

BM: I'm glad to hear you say that.

VS: I have very strong feelings about that. Why should we disenfranchise half the population? Holland probably has been a little slower than most areas in moving women into positions of leadership, although the Holland Classis of the Reformed Church has elected women now to positions of leadership. Our city council has a couple of women on. I always remember my junior high school principal, Bernice Bishop, was the first woman to serve on the city council. She became one of the best council people we ever had. Broke the ice! I'm optimistic. Women are going to take a more important role in this society all the time. I know that in some church circles you read the concern that women are doing all the work now and to some extent that may be true. But that doesn't bother me one iota. I was glad to see women go into the ministry. I'm really pleased with that. Some of the best gals that I've known as students at Hope College have gone into the ministry and they are going to do a great job. We've got one in seminary now over at Western, I'm so excited about her being there. It's a Walvoord girl.

BM: Goes to our church.

VS: Outstanding young lady! She's going to do a great job.

BM: Some many women are so qualified academically and then they have those other...

VS: Well, I would be less than honest with you if I didn't tell you that from a historical standpoint this has been one of the real challenges that Western Theological Seminary has faced during the time that I was on the Board. Because how do you obtain the best students to go to seminary? When I was a kid, the best students at Hope College, or Northwestern or Central, would consider the seminary. In recent years most of those best students consider going into business. Or they went to Princeton, or Yale or Harvard Divinity Schools, Chicago. It became a challenge for Western to attract that kind of a student. This year, for example, I know in 1996 that, I talked to Jim Cook. He says we have really seen an upgrade of the quality student. That's what we need. It's pretty hard to make something decent out of an old sock. If you start out with a highly qualified student they're going to be successful.

BM: I understand that there are thirty in that junior class. Some of the best they've ever had. Did you have any major turning point in your life?

VS: The major turning point in my life was very simple. It was the day I went to work for Hope College. It was a significant change for me. Very significant. I can't express it strongly enough. That was the first time I ever went to work for an organization that really had a set of principles and knew where they were going, why they existed, and what they were going to do. That's a great experience in life. Isla and I had reached the point where we weren't sure what we wanted to do and that really was the answer.

BM: Tell me what you've heard other people say of Holland. You travel around a lot and so forth. What do other people think of us here?

VS: It's always interesting, Beth, the students who come here from New Jersey that have all the answers - they come to this parochial town and by the time they get ready to graduate we can't get them out of here. Lamont Dirkse, professor in education, always said, "Yeah, the first year they're here they would never come back to Holland to teach, and the fourth year when they graduate I can't get them to go anywhere else to teach." But, I'd say that's the only criticism I've ever heard of us as a community. We tend to be too parochial and so forth. But you know the GE people, when they came here, really changed that. I was instrumental in working on the Chamber when the GE people came here when we were very fortunate to have Martin head of that plant. He had a policy that all of their leadership became members of the various clubs and organizations

(end of side one)

VS: Well, Beth we've done a lot of talking about things more or less in recent years around the Holland area. I'd just like to take a few minutes to share with our listeners something about the background of a family. Although my name is Schipper, I always looked to my mother's side as our history. I suppose that comes about because my great-grandfather, Peter Huyser, was one of the pioneer settlers of this area. When you look at the old pictures in Zeeland of the ten old gentlemen all with their beards (they were the pioneer settlers), Peter Huyser is one of those persons. He was born in 1822. He lived until the year of 1913, in his nineties.

Peter Huyser was a fascinating individual. He was my great-grandfather and I was privileged to be on his farm, although I did not know him many times because as a young man growing up in Zeeland my grandmother and my aunts and uncles all had farms adjacent to the Huyser farm in Beaverdam. Peter Huyser was a pioneer settler in this area. He came from Zeutemere, a province of the Netherlands in South Holland, and his father was Quirinus Huyser. There's a very interesting biographical sketch of Peter Huyser in the historic book that traced the history of the family. Suffice it to say without going into a lot of details, that Peter Huyser and two of his brothers immigrated to America. They had been a part of the Separatist Church in the Netherlands that was led by A. C. Van Raalte, the settler of Holland. They came aboard the ship, the "Sabina". An interesting sidelight, when they boarded the ship the first thing that happened, the ship ended up on the breakwater so they never got out of the harbor. But after being brought back to shore and getting things put back together they headed for America. Two of the Huyser boys came aboard that ship. Another, Cornelius, followed later. But they followed the typical pattern of the Dutch immigrant. This shows you how dependent we are on the history of the Dutch in the East. They arrived in New York. They went up the avenue to Rev. De Witt, Dominie De Witt, at the Collegiate Church of New York. That church was helping Dutch immigrants move West. They shipped them up the Hudson River to Albany by steamer. They arrived in Albany, stayed over there and that church helped them go down the Erie Canal to Buffalo, New York, where they wintered. After a winter in Buffalo, New York, the two boys boarded a ship, went across the Great Lakes, and

finally arrived in the City of Chicago. There, of course, they had a choice. They could have followed the Scholte colony and gone out to Iowa or come here to Holland, Michigan. Their decision was to come to Holland. The two boys came across the lake and landed at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River where Saugatuck is now. They pulled a flatboat along the beach - had quite an experience doing that according to the sketches. They had difficulty crossing sand bars and all that, but they arrived off the mouth of Macatawa Lake and, of course, there was no channel then. So a person with a couple of oxen helped pull the boat over the dunes. They arrived in Holland and met the Rev. A. C. Van Raalte in his garden here in Holland, Michigan. Van Raalte was a sharp individual and he recognized that these two boys were Dutch farmers. Now my great-grandfather, Peter Huyser, had saved a little money in the Netherlands by working out for other farmers. So he had a few resources at his disposal. Rev. Van Raalte recommended that they should go and see Rev. Vander Meulen in Zeeland because Vander Meulen had made arrangements for the purchase of land northeast of Zeeland. So Peter Huyser and his brother, under Vander Meulen's leadership, went out and bought forty acres, nothing but a heavy wooded tree area. That's where they got their start. Today, people have made a home of it, but there's a Huyser School that my mother attended, that my cousins attended. There's the Beaverdam Reformed Church where Peter Huyser was a life-time elder. He did a lot of preaching in that church whenever they were vacant, didn't have a minister, which is not unusual for people who were highly qualified in those days. My great-grandfather had sons and daughters and it's interesting to see

how he had the privilege of naming his first son. His wife, Adrianna, had the privilege of naming his first daughter. So the first son's name, obviously, was Peter, and the first daughter's name was Adrianna, who is my grandmother, Adrianna Jane, named after the mother. My grandmother I always considered to be the typical way a grandmother should be. White hair, always a smile on her face and I think her favorite Dutch expression was "Het dis so mooi (sp)". I remember when I got my driver's license at fourteen years of age she said, "Het dis so mooi". I thought it was so nice. But as I grew up in Zeeland, the street I lived on was Pine Street, the closest of the family to the First Reformed Church of Zeeland where they really got their start before they started the Beaverdam Reformed Church. My dad and mother were married in the First Reformed Church. I was baptized there. Pine Street was a gravel street when I was brought up on it. It looks quite a bit different now. Now it's the home of the Zeeland Hospital. Our lives really revolved around First Reformed Church and my mother's brothers and sisters. Mrs. Kate (B.J.W.) Berghorst lived right around the corner from my folks on Central Avenue. My Aunt Frances (Mrs. William Van Eenenaam) lived on Lawrence Street, my grandmother lived on Central Avenue. At least one day a week those sisters would all go over and sew at grandma's house in the afternoon. Those were the days when women stayed at home. Sunday afternoon we always went to grandma's house. My mother's brothers and sisters were all avid singers and the piano would be playing and they sing hymns. We had a lot of fun. I have nothing but positive memories of all of that. My mother's family, my uncles and aunts, were always very close. Every

Thursday night we said, "We went to the country." We went out east of Zeeland where the farm was that my grandfather owned, Folkert De Vries, and we went out there and bought a dozen eggs, forty cents a dozen approximately. We would visit with my uncle and aunt out there. They had a son my same age, a cousin, Ernie Schutt. Most of our associations were with our families that way. But I remember my mother and her sister, my Aunt Maggie, would sit in the kitchen with a kerosene lamp. They didn't have electricity yet. They would sit talking and my dad, my uncle Andrew Schutt, would sit in the living room on each side of the radio. This was the time when Martin De Haan had started the Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, and my uncle who had been an elder in the Reformed Church, followed Martin De Haan and helped start a tabernacle in Zeeland. My dad and my Uncle Andrew, I must truthfully say, I never heard them fight. But they would talk about baptism and about everything in the Bible backwards and forwards. My dad was always a great Sunday School teacher. He taught Sunday School all his life at First Zeeland. My uncle was equally well versed in Scripture. I only remember one thing that my uncle would say. He would talk about the Scofield Bible. My dad would remind him it was not "the Scofield Bible," it was the "Scofield Reference Bible." But anyway, that was my life as a young man growing up in elementary school. Thursday nights we would go to the country. I'd play with my cousins, the Van Eenenaam boys and the Berghorst kids. Saturdays we had to change the awnings at grandma's house or something like that or we'd go to the back "hokje" we called it. Grandma always made doughnuts every Saturday morning and all of us cousins would sit on the back

deck there eating doughnuts. Grandma had a couple of cherry trees and a pear tree. We just had a great life as kids growing up. We went to the Zeeland schools and that was my first introduction to a Lubbers because Melvin Lubbers became the superintendent of schools in Zeeland. Later his brother, Irwin, of course I got to know as president of Hope College. When I went into high school, I went to school with the same kids from kindergarten through eighth grade. Everyone was the same. Our pictures we have at home, they're all of the same kids. But when we went to the ninth grade that was the first time Zeeland school accepted students from the rural areas - New Gronigen, Vriesland, of all things Forest Grove and Jamestown, and all the way out to Burnips. Zeeland bought the first school buses. They had three of them. Those gals and guys all came to Zeeland to high school. I count them today as my best friends. We've got Ruth Van Klompenberg over here in the Brook Village. She's just a dear friend of mine. She was president of my class. A lot of what we did in high school was to go out to social hours. We'd rent the Forest Grove Hall and one of the kids whose dad had a tractor would give us a hay ride. We would give all kinds of reasons to go out to Forest Grove or Jamestown with Loie De Kleine and Beth Smallegan, Sherwin Wolters, Glenn Bouwens, Lila Myard, Lyle Brower, and that whole group of kids. Also John Smallegan, who you know. That was our lifestyle. It was a very small circle, really. The only thing that I did that might have been called a "sin" was when I was in high school we had the most wonderful neighbors in Zeeland, Joe and Jessamine Ver Plank. But the Ver Planks were old worldly, see. Jessamine, was one of the most lovely person you would ever

know, Phyllis, who was in the ninth grade in school, her sister, Joy, was a year younger. The girls of Ver Plank got a record player for Christmas and dancing was a very controversial issue, of course. You never did that in Zeeland! (Or Holland for that matter). That's right, I went with my wife to sweater dances that Mrs. Timmer sponsored because we couldn't dance at the high school. I remember only too well when we passed that in Holland. Well, anyway, to make a long story short, my cousin, Lee, and I decided we were going to learn to dance. So we went to Grand Rapids to the Phil Osterhouse Dance Studio one day a week for four weeks. A typical dance instructor - at the end of four weeks she told us how great we were and we should sign up for another four weeks and we were the two best dancers she had ever known! But, when it was all over Phyllis Ver Plank lived across from me and she invited me to come over with some of the other girls from my class. I could dance and they couldn't believe that we could dance! But we had been to the Phil Osterhouse Dance Studio. I never told my parents that of course, you know. But anyway, we had a lot of fun in high school and most of us became very close and have become lifetime friends.

BM: Where did you meet your wife?

VS: At Hope College. I got out of the service after World War II and I wasn't really sure what I was going to do. I had a cousin in Beaverdam who had a Carnation Company milk route through the country to pick up milk. Not being sure what I was going to do I ran that milk route every once in a while when he and his wife would go on vacation for a few days. Had a lot of fun doing that. But there was a fella in

Holland I knew by the name of Dale Brower. He was going with a gal by the name of Norma De Vries. We were out one night and we met at Had's Soda Bar and my wife was with Norma and that's how we met. They were all going to Hope College. They said, "Boy, you ought to go to college."

BM: Where was your wife from?

VS: Holland, 231 West 18th Street. She and Gene Marcus and Bob Van Eenenaam and Bob Becksfort were all together in the same class in school. In fact, they just had their fiftieth anniversary a few weeks ago. George Zuidema and that whole crowd. Well, anyway, that's how I met Isla and so I decided to come to Hope. I have nothing but positive memories of my youth. Would I want to relive them? No, I wouldn't quite say that. Pheasant hunting I would like to live over a little bit. But I had lots of cousins that I associated with, and we sort of have maybe two generations of cousins. I've got the older cousins, Ford Berghorst and Bill Berghorst - that crowd, and then we've got the younger crowd. We've got the group all in their eighties and ones like I am in their sixties or seventies. But getting back to this whole business of Peter Huyser. I think it is just a fascinating story how the Huyser boys came to this country, how he found a wife and was a very successful farmer. Now my grandfather De Vries, who married Adrianna Jane, his daughter, bought a farm right next door to him. My grandpa De Vries was a horseman and they built this huge, beautiful barn on that farm. That barn still stands there. I know the fellow who owns that farm very well. See him on Saturday mornings for coffee quite often. My mother's brothers weren't worth a toot with horses. My mother was the

horseman in that family. So Grandpa always liked horses, he kept a string of pretty high-spirited ones, and he loved to go downtown in Zeeland and visit with his cronies down there. But my mother would be the one who had to take charge of and take care of the horses. Lo and behold, an interesting thing in that family. None of those boys were worth a toot with horses, but their grandson is probably one of the best horsemen I know. He has a son and a daughter now that are just great horse people and really can handle horses - second to none. They're just topnotch. It does go from generation to generation. There are a lot of Huysers around Holland. I see Laverne Huyser Lievense. She would be the daughter of Peter Huyser who wrote the whole section in this booklet about the history of the Huyser family. My grandmother had other brothers and sisters. Stanley Huyser was a person who did all the wallpapering in our house, and he was a relative. Quite a few of them were active at Trinity Church. That's where I met most of them over the years. So that's the Huyser story of my background. That became much more important to me than the Schipper side of the family. My grandfather and grandmother Schipper lived right behind my grandmother De Vries in Zeeland. My grandfather Schipper was a superintendent of the Colonial Furniture factory, the clock works in Zeeland. He was a great guy - I really like him. My grandmother, I think weighed eighty-five pounds soaking wet, but she was a very stern individual. The word dis(?) en mooi(?) didn't exist in her life. She was a wonderfully honest person, but I never felt any warmth for her like I did to my grandmother De Vries. My grandmother De Vries was an absolute saint. They lived back to back to each other in Zeeland. My dad had a couple of brothers

and one became a minister in the Reformed Church. Clarence Schipper. Right after World War II, he went to Canada. He had been at Archer, Iowa. He always had small churches up in northwest Iowa. Then he and Aunt Mabel went to Canada, Woodstock, Canada. We stopped at that church one time when we took our students from Trinity Church on a trip. We stopped in Woodstock and visited with those Dutch families. He could preach Dutch and that's why he was in demand there. In later years, he wanted to come back to this country and finish out his career here. Of course, that was very difficult. So he ended up in a Presbyterian church in Kansas. That's where he had his final ministry, out in Kansas. They would come and stop at my folks every summer when they had their month's vacation.

BM: You haven't said much about your kids.

VS: Oh, yes. I have three boys. They're graduates of Hope College, obviously. My number one son is an attorney in Grand Rapids and doing very well. He's an attorney and a partner in a firm where Hope graduate Bruce Neckers is. Bruce was named just a couple of weeks ago as one of the top attorneys of the nation. Bruce has sort of been his mentor and Jim has done very well there. His primary responsibilities are in the area of real estate. He does a lot of work in court which he said he never thought he would ever do.

BM: Where did he get his law degree?

VS: Wayne State. My number two son, Brian, is a vice-president of Pepsi Cola. He's responsible for the Frito Lay division. He was with Compaq computers in Houston, Texas, but when they decide to recruit you they go after you heavy. Pepsi was

determined to get him. He had been on a trip to Japan for Compaq and his responsibilities were in the area of compensation and benefits. He had about 25 people working for him. Pepsi wanted him to do that for the Frito Lay division. It's a much bigger company, of course, so he moved to Dallas. He's been there just a little over a year. In fact, he's in his second home over there and he's got a team working for him. That's so different, Beth. He earns more money in one year than I thought I would in a lifetime. But he goes to New York a lot because Pepsi's headquarters are in Purchase, New York. I guess their offices are fabulous. There's a sculpture garden all around it. Our number three son, Steve, he's the car buff. He's car nuts! He works for Courtesy Dodge in Grand Rapids. He's a service person there and he loves it.

BM: Everyone to their own.

VS: Everyone on their own, that's right. The two older boys, of course, do so well financially, you just can't believe it. But we've had good experiences with them.

BM: I don't really have any other questions. Is there something you would like to add?

VS: Well, I wanted an opportunity first to share about my own family, but I wanted to share this thing about Peter Huyser because I had just strong ties to my mother's side of the family. All of the pleasant things I remember about being a kid really related to things we did with the Van Eenenaams, the Berghorsts, the Schutts, the De Vrieses. Those brothers and sisters did everything together. In fact, I have a little hard job with my wife, quite honestly. We would never call Aunt Lynda and Uncle Lawrence to tell them that we were coming. We just went there. I say to my wife,

"Let's go see so and so." "Well," she'd say, "you can't go without calling."

BM: Those customs have changed.

VS: Yes. Those customs have changed entirely. We lived in a much smaller world, too.

I think about how after school we'd always go to catechism on Wednesdays. Finally after catechism, we ended up Wednesday nights studying the Heidelberg. I say that my minister at that time was John Van Peurse. I'll argue with anyone that John Van Peurse was so far ahead of his time as a pastor you can't believe it. Because, one, he knew psychology. He knew that juniors and seniors in high school, when they came to catechism, not only came to catechism but they came to be with each other. He let us horse around in the halls awhile, things like that. John was sharp! Boy, he was just on the ball! He created an environment that made even the Heidelberg Catechism tolerable. I have nothing but the best memories of that. Every minister I've had since I've always measured against John Van Peurse, which probably isn't very fair to my more recent ministers. But I thought that John Van Peurse really had a feel for a congregation. These were the days when they went to Ladies' Aid or mission society or both. Today the women are working. We had a Christian Endeavor. Of all things, Bill and Nell Wichers were my intermediate Christian Endeavor sponsors. A great couple. We always put on a play every Thanksgiving in the church. Hung some bed sheets across the front of the church. We thought we were the greatest people in the world, we were Moses and Joseph and everything else. So much of our entertainment revolved around the church. When I was in high school, I sang in the high school choir and glee club. Where would we

go to sing? We went and sang in the Forest Grove Reformed Church or the Jamestown Reformed Church. Fact is, while I was in high school I was sitting in the choir and we were singing in First Reformed Church Choir and Harold Geeldes was our director. Harold later became a professor of music at Calvin College. He was the director at Second Reformed Church across the street. Second Reformed Church started at ten o'clock, First Reformed started at 9:30. So I'd sing in the First Reformed Church Choir until between nine thirty and ten. In the summertime they were always short handed for basses in the Second Reformed Church choir. So I'd sneak out the side door and I'd walk in just in time to sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" as the choir walked in.

BM: Were you with the choir at all at Hope College?

VS: No, I was not.

BM: That was always a great experience for me.

VS: My friend Phil Fredrickson was in that glee club. The Kranendonk boys. In fact, one of them was at our class reunion this past year, Bob Kranendonk. Paul's a pastor.

BM: He's at Whiting, New Jersey.

VS: Dr. Van Wylen and I went to visit him when he was in Syracuse, New York. Gordon preached in his church and we had Sunday dinner with them and stayed overnight with them. Very supportive people. Paul and Kathy were in Isla's class at Hope.

BM: Yes, I got to know all of those people throughout the years too.

VS: You couldn't help miss them, could you.

BM: They're just great people. Well, Vern, I thank you very much.

VS: I thank you for this opportunity.

BM: It's been interesting to hear stories of your life and we'll see now what happens to it.

VS: Okay.

Initial Contact Form

Name: VERNON J. SCHIPPER

Date of birth: AUG. 10, 1927 Place of birth: ZEELAND, MICH

Mother's name (include maiden name): MARIAN E. DE VRES SCHIPPER

Father's name: WILLIAM J. SCHIPPER

Siblings' names (include birthdates if known):

Spouse's name (include wife's maiden name): ISABEL STREUR SCHIPPER

Date of marriage: JUNE 22, 1951 Place of marriage: 1ST REF CHURCH - ZEELAND

Children's names (include dates and places of birth):

JAMES LEE

BRIAN JUEL

STEVEN JIM

Date of death:

Place of death and burial:

Religion and church membership:

CHRIST MEMORIAL - REFORMED

Schooling and/or other training:

ZEELAND PUBLIC

HOPKINS COLLEGE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIV.

Residential history (list all residences chronologically, noting the dates lived at each):

ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

Occupational history (list all occupations chronologically, noting the place of work, the type of work done there, and the approximate salary):

HOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS - HISTORY, ENGLISH - DIR. COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOPKINS COLLEGE - ALUMNI DIRECTOR COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

Membership in clubs and organizations (note dates of membership and offices held):

HOLLAND EXCHANGE CLUB - PRESIDENT

HOLLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - BO OF DIRECTORS

BO OF EDUCATIONAL EDUCATION - REFORMED CHURCH

Other general information:

SERVICE - WWII

KOREAN WAR