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Tanis, Elaine Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

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

Interview #18
Mrs. Elaine Tanis
Holland's Past Fifty Years

Conducted by:
Tracy L. Bednarick
August 15, 1996

Interviewee: Elaine Tanis (ET), mother of Holland's youngest mayor
Interviewer: Tracy Bednarick (TLB), Oral History Student Coordinator

[pre-interview conversation]

TLB: Could you state your name, and your maiden name, your date of birth, and where you were born?

ET: I am Elaine Buteyn Tanis. I was born on [date removed], 1935 in Waupun, Wisconsin.

TLB: When did you move to Holland?

ET: In 1965.

TLB: What brought you here?

ET: Hope College brought us here. My husband was hired in the math department.

TLB: What were some of your first impressions of the city when you moved here?

ET: The city, I felt, was a very nice city. I liked the size, because it was big enough so that everybody didn't know everybody else's business, and still it had the small home town feeling. I really appreciated that. We came up here from Lincoln, Nebraska. There was a contrast. Though I liked Lincoln, I felt that Holland had a beauty all its own. Particularly, because of our wonderful parks.

TLB: Did you have children that you moved here?

ET: At that time, when we moved, we had just one son. He was just a toddler.

TLB: And then did you have more children after that?

ET: We had two others, and they were both born in Holland Hospital. We had a son, Joel, and a daughter, Ellen.

TLB: What school did your children go to?

ET: Our firstborn son, Philip, went first to Van Raalte school, and I believe that he had

only kindergarten at Van Raalte. Then we moved here, to this house. We were previously on 19th Street, West 19th Street, same block between River and Pine. Then we moved here, and then he and the other children all went to Washington School.

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

ET: It was wonderful, because there were so many opportunities. There is plenty to do, I think. One of my regrets was, when the children were little I wanted to teach them to ice skate. However, the winters here are such that you don't have a constant cold. When I grew up in Wisconsin, my memory is that it was cold, cold, cold. So all winter long we would go ice skating. Here we did teach them to ice skate, but one day the ice would be great and the next day it would melt. It is a very minor thing, but that was just one thing that I regretted. I wanted them to be good ice skaters.
[laughter]

TLB: That is one thing that stands out about Holland, the weather is pretty inconsistent. Did you live anywhere else?

ET: My history is, I grew up in Wisconsin. I went to college in Iowa. After college, I went to Japan for three years to teach in a girls' school. Then I came back, and I taught in Iowa. Then I got married. My husband was at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City. He finished his PhD. and I finished my Master's there. Then we moved to Lincoln, Nebraska for a couple of years, where he taught at the University. After that, we came up to Holland to Hope College. So that is, in a nutshell, where I have been.

TLB: Did you teach when you came to Holland?

ET: I never taught in the public school. I have taught at Hope in various departments as part-time lecturer, just very briefly.

TLB: Was there anything that stood out about Holland that was quite different from Lincoln or the other places you lived?

ET: The parks, again, I think we have excellent parks in our city. For the most part, the beauty of the city. Not only the parks, but Tulip Lane. I happen to like the flowers, and the shrubbery. Michigan just seems to have more to offer. Of course, having the lake. There was something about the city that was lovely. It was certainly, in my perspective, more beautiful than Lincoln, Nebraska, even though Lincoln was the capital and had some interesting things. I guess I also appreciated the Dutch heritage, because that is my heritage.

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

ET: Mostly, my interactions were with Hope College faculty, and the neighborhood where we lived on 19th Street. Then, of course, eventually, in the church that we joined. That was our life, and it has continued to be so, unfortunately. [laughter] Because, I think, I wish I had more time to reach out more to other people in the community. It hasn't happened that much yet.

TLB: Some qualities that seem to stand out in the city of Holland would be the parks and the beauty. Are there any others that you can think of?

ET: Back when we first moved here, it was a very safe place to live. It was a good place to raise children. I think that it still is, but there certainly has been a great change in

the safety in the city. When they started talking about gangs a few years ago, I thought, "Come on." I really didn't believe them. But now I do, because it is true. We do have our problems. Over the years, the drug traffic has come up. That was another thing that I think it was hard to accept the information that, "Yes, indeed we have drug problems in Holland." Back when we moved here in the sixties, the city was certainly a lot safer. Back in those days, we wouldn't lock our doors. We would go away, and the back door would be open. I wouldn't think of doing that anymore.

TLB: Are there any other negative aspects to Holland, or any drawbacks to living in Holland?

ET: I don't have drawbacks for living in Holland, because I really like Holland. There are so many opportunities around here. I think, partially, that it is because of the college too. I know college kids might not feel this way, but there is always something to do. It is surprising what this city has to offer. In the past, I have taken advantage of community education courses. I took a painting course. I took a guitar class. I took swimming one time. I tried tennis. [laughs] The community has offered a variety of things. The college has many things that one can participate in. You can go to lectures, like at Western Seminary, if you are interested in those kinds of things. With the Arts Council and our new museum, the Historical Society, we don't even have time to go to those things. I think, culturally, Holland has a lot to offer. Religiously too. There are many churches here. As far as I am concerned, every aspect of one's life is covered. Sports too; they have wonderful recreation

activities in the community. You can see how I would make a good Chamber of Commerce person. [laughter]

[pause]

TLB: What was the Vietnam War like in Holland? How did the community react to it? Do you remember?

ET: I don't remember that much. I really don't. The only thing that I can remember, is the fact that there were probably a number of people who were negative. I'm sure that some college students had some demonstrations. I can remember one time at Tulip Time, when some college kids broke into the parade. Whether or not that was an anti-Vietnam War demonstration, or some other thing I can't remember what that was. I don't think that would happen today, in that there would probably be enough police around to say, "No way." But I can remember that happening.

TLB: I wonder if that is in the Archives?

ET: I don't know what they were protesting.

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

ET: The growth. There is tremendous growth. The industrial park area has increased a lot with the industry. One of the biggest changes is the increase in crime, and the drug traffic. Another thing, is the huge mall and all those stores on the North side. It blows my mind. I say, "Who is doing all this shopping?" I don't go out there all that often. I prefer not to. I prefer to support Holland center city. You have to go out there sometimes, because you can't find everything downtown.

TLB: What do you think some of the causes of the changes have been, such as the growth?

What has caused or brought about the growth in Holland?

ET: A lot of things. Probably the economic opportunities, and the fact that this has been a nice community. Years ago, the migrant workers used to come, and the migrant workers still come, I understand. Although with new machines, like berry picking machines, we probably don't have as many migrant workers coming up from the south. When people came up here and found that this was a nice place to live, they stayed. The causes are definitely economics, and that it is a nice community. This is why people came. I think that it is still this way today.

I think because of the increase in the industry and opportunities for jobs. I think Holland has been a fairly good place for one to find a job. I don't keep track of unemployment statistics, but I think that for the most part we have done well in this area. Even during some of the crunches of the recession and so forth I think that there were some people who felt it, but I think that a good deal of the community has done very well.

TLB: Have you or your family been involved with any of the changes that have come about in Holland?

ET: Yes, my son, in particular, our first son, Philip. He served on City Council, and he was also the mayor. When he was on City Council he was going to Hope College at the same time.

TLB: That he was on City Council?

ET: Yes.

TLB: How old was he?

ET: He was right out of high school. He graduated from high school in June, and then in November when they had the election, that is when he was elected to City Council. I told him when he got the idea to run, because the representative of the ward was not going to run again, they needed some people to run. He got the spark in his head when he read it in the newspaper he said, "I think I'll do this." He was very involved in politics in high school. So I said, "Oh Philip, don't. Just go to college, and enjoy." But he ran; he was that kind of a kid. He was always very active. And he won. So I always say now that he had two educations during those four years: one on City Council, and the one at Hope College. And he did fine. I know that at first some of the councilmen probably looked down their noses at him, this young "whippersnapper." I think that he sat and listened a lot. He did his homework well, and eventually got on committees and did a good job.

Talk about changes in Holland, this is what leads to it all. When he was on the council, he served on a committee for the restoration of Centennial Park. Years ago, the paths in the park were just gravel. It was difficult for people with disabilities, and those who are physically challenged, so they had a drive to raise money to put in bricks, to pave the park with bricks. He was very involved in that. In fact, in the basement, we still have a box that looks like a brick. He marched in the parade wearing this box that looked like a brick in support of the "Buy a Brick" campaign. They put the bricks in, the new seats, the new gazebo, the new lamp posts, and they did a nice job. I think that helping with that project was one of his biggest contributions.

TLB: What is he doing now? Is he still involved with the city?

ET: No, he is in Bulgaria. He has been there for a year and three or four months. He is working for the International Republican Institute, which helps the Bulgarians learn about democracy. The interesting thing is, that he was able to get this job from a fellow Hope College friend, who was already working for the institute. He needed someone who was actually allowed to go to Bulgaria with him. I am very grateful that he has had this opportunity. They help run workshops that teach about democracy. They help certain candidates with political campaigns, campaign strategy. It is all this stuff that he was involved in many years ago. His contract was just for one year, but he is staying on longer. He won't be home this year at all. I am really happy for him to have this experience.

TLB: And you have three other children...

ET: Two other children.

TLB: Our son, Joel, he lives over on 15th Street. He is an artist. He is making a living as artist. He is the singer for the band "The Voice." His is the voice. That is Joel. Our third child is a daughter, Ellen. She is the resident director at Kollen Hall. She came here last year to Hope. She had been working at the University of Michigan in the same kind of job, two years previous to that. She was down in Georgia getting her master's degree in this kind of work. All three of our kids graduated from Hope.

TLB: Did your children ever express any desire to go anywhere but Hope, or was it just the place to go?

ET: For our son Philip, the first one, Hope was the place to go. He didn't even look at

any other places. He didn't want to. Our family was Hope College. The second, Joel, applied at the University of Michigan. He was accepted there, but then went to Hope. Our daughter looked around, and then she decided on Hope. I think because her brothers enjoyed it, and because my husband is on the faculty so we do have some benefits. They all went to Hope and loved it.

TLB: How has Hope College changed since you came here?

ET: It too has grown. When we came, the size of the faculty was such that you really got to know almost everybody. Now, we know everybody in the department, but we don't know them as well. I think that maybe when your children are small and growing up, you have a tendency to get together with other families with the little kids to do this and that. As the children leave the nest, you get busy with your own life, and maybe the lives of your grown children. We haven't associated with people on campus as much as we did.

One of the things that I must say we had back in those days when we first came, in the sixties and seventies, was called "Faculty Dames." It was a good organization. It was for the wives, primarily, of faculty. That program got you together with people in various departments. You met all the people. When newcomers would come to the college the Faculty Dames would make sure that we would write to these people. We would have coffee times for these folks. There were a lot of programs going on where we would welcome the new folks in. We would get to know them. Through the years, we had interest groups. In fact, I think some of those are still going. Like, a gourmet group or a bridge group. There used

to be a book discussion group. We don't have those organized faculty groups anymore, and I think that is too bad. I think it went by the way because women more and more started to work. You just didn't have the time to do these social things.

For changes in Hope . . . I think that it has become a little more diverse, both in faculty and the student body. They have tried very hard to get different ethnic groups in as faculty, leadership, and students. A lot of development took place during Dr. VanWylen's time. We had a lot of building construction. Then of course, this last year with all those houses being moved. It seems like a lot of changes have taken place physically on the campus.

TLB: Even since the two years that I have been here, it has changed a lot.

ET: Right, and there continue to be changes. Like with the new theater addition soon to be completed. And I have heard talk about an addition to the science building. They continue to improve the facilities, which I think are already quite nice.

TLB: You are involved with the church, you said. What church do you go to?

ET: Third Reformed Church, right up here on the corner.

TLB: Have churches in Holland changed at all, since you moved here? And what influence do the churches have on the city of Holland?

ET: I think that years ago the churches probably had much more influence than they do today. That is what I think. I don't know if it is true or not. I think we are living in a very secular era. I suppose it depends on the church, but young people get to a certain age and they sort of say, "Farewell." Then they go out and do their own thing, until a time in their life when they come back to the church. That is not true

for my kids who live here, because they have been very involved. It is true for a lot of young adults though. I have seen them leave. Though, I know certain churches have a lot of young adults. I am always concerned about that.

Let's see, influence of the churches. I am not sure if there is a ministerial association anymore. There used to be. There was a lot of cooperation between churches. I am glad for the cooperation that the inner city churches have. We have an inner city parish council. St. Francis, Third, Hope, Pillar Church, and the Methodist Church cooperate with programs. For Christian unity, there are other churches that get involved with that in January. We have a special service. We have Vacation Bible School together too. St. Francis burned last October or November. We had just moved back into our church. We had been meeting at Hope College while we had renovations done. No sooner had we been back in Third for but a few weeks then St. Francis burned. We opened our doors to St. Francis and said, "You may use our church if you like." And they have been ever since. That is wonderful; that is great. There is cooperation.

As far as influencing the city, well? I am sure churches still have influence. I think about the Maplewood Christian Reformed Church that has a program for kids. They have a big parking lot where they have basketball equipment. They've got a good program going there for young people, to keep them off the streets, to fight against the gangs and all that stuff. There are still programs going on to make this a better community.

TLB: Has there been any controversy in Holland, since you have moved here that you can

recall?

ET: Controversy? Well, I don't know how much controversy this new arena has caused. I suppose it depends on who you talk to. Some people were very much wanting it down where the Foundry is. Some people wanted it out where the GM plant is on 16th Street. I am sure that there was a lot of debate going around in certain corners. We didn't discuss it a whole lot with our friends. We talked about it a little bit. I don't know if you would call it controversy.

I guess, one time they were talking about putting a mini-mall on 9th Street, right behind the downtown. Maybe that caused some controversy. They moved away houses. There is a whole area that is open now. Instead, the plan fell through. I can't remember why, maybe it was just the developer or something. The whole big mall went up on the Northside. I don't know if the changes downtown caused controversy. I am just grateful that we have a nice looking downtown. I wish it were a little more serviceable to all classes of people. The cost of the clothes are for upper class, or upper middle. There are still some stores where you can go shopping. But if you want certain things, you can't find it down there anymore. I miss having J.C. Penny's downtown. I miss the dime store and things like that. Whether or not that has caused controversy, I don't know.

TLB: Has industry changed since you moved here, and what effect does industry have on Holland?

ET: I know that there has been an increase, but if I had to name the companies I wouldn't be able to. The effect is that there has been a lot of growth. This is true, even in the

traffic. I never used to wear a helmet when I rode a bicycle. Yikes! Now you hardly dare go out without it. The traffic is so much heavier. I think that it is because there is more going on and there are more people. There is really a lot of growth in the city.

TLB: What do you make of the increasing diversification of the Holland community?

ET: Certainly, it is increasing. Continually, I see more and more. In fact, when you go to certain stores you feel like you are in a different community. There are many different ethnic groups present. I think that is healthy. I hope that Holland can handle the integration, and keep working through the Human Relations Commission, and whatever else they have set up to make our community a friendly place. One thing that has delighted me so much is that a lot of churches brought in South-East Asian people, and have helped them to get settled and find jobs. I'm not sure how integrated they are getting into the community. I really haven't kept track of that. What delights me so is when these young people learn English, and they just excel in school and do so well. That, I think is tremendous. Some of those people have real hard stories to tell. They have had miserable lives when they were escaping South-East Asia. If they can have a better life here, that is wonderful. I know there are prejudices against these people, not necessarily just the Asians. I know prejudices exist, but I hope that the community can continue to work on increasing healthy relationships. From my perspective, I think that we do try. I am sure from some Hispanic perspectives they may say just the opposite. I think that we have tried. It is neat when you see the Hispanic festival. They have their float in the parade with

their queen and everything.

A week or so ago we went to the park for an All Nations' Night. It was to let some of those folks know what was available in the community for help if they need help. The police were there. They had displays and things. They had Community Action House displays. There were some Hispanic dancers when we were in the park. We share our cultures with one another and learn from each other. The same thing is true when they have what they used to call Liberty Fest; it is now called Celebrations. By doing those things, hopefully people will learn from one another and come to appreciate one another's culture. That is very important if we are going to live together.

TLB: Definitely. Does the Dutch heritage still have an influence on the city?

ET: I suppose to a certain degree. We have a history. I think that we should continue to be proud of our history. Yes, to a certain degree.

TLB: Is there anything that makes Holland unique from other cities?

ET: Our big tulip festival, Tulip Time. And Windmill Island, if that continues to survive. We have different Dutch things around town which are of interest to the people. In the spring the city is so beautiful when the tulips are all in bloom. I love it. The fact that the city continues to keep Tulip Lane. When the library gets built over here (Herrick Library addition), we will no longer have our beautiful Tulip beds there on Twelfth Street.

TLB: They'll have to find a new place for them.

ET: I think that we should have some nice tulip beds in the inner city. I don't know

where they would be, but they are an attraction. People come and they enjoy the tulips.

TLB: Do you think that the role of women has changed at all since you moved here?

ET: Yes, indeed. We have had some women on the City Council. They work on the committees. There is an increase of women faculty at the college. In the churches, depending on the church, there has been a change, although some churches still won't allow women to be in their governing boards or their consistory. We have a woman pastor. We have had women elders and deacons for many years in our church. Twenty-five years ago, those things would have been unheard of. There has been a change. I think in the business world too, you see women with their small businesses and in leadership roles.

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

ET: I think they are all so struck by the beauty of the community. It is a pretty much well kept community. I think that would be the main thing. It is just a nice looking place. And of course, we have the advantage of having the lake.

TLB: Is there anything that you want to add about your family? What was it like when you were raising your children here? Do you remember any special activities that you enjoyed?

ET: The area, it is not just Holland; it is Michigan in general. I've always loved being here in this area because of the different fruits we have. When the children were little we would go picking blueberries. We would go out picking peaches and apples;

things like that on family outings. We made good use of the parks when the kids were young. Tulip Time, some people in Holland don't like Tulip Time. They would just as soon escape the city. I love Tulip Time. It was always fun to go to the parades and see the kids in the parades. For a few years the children were in band. Unfortunately they all bombed out of that for various reasons. I love parades and things like that. We had fun doing things like that.

We had fun taking in things that the college offered: concerts, theater. One thing that I regretted was when the old downtown theaters, the Park on River and the Holland Theater closed. It is not as convenient for young people to go to the theater anymore. They have to go out farther. However, I do appreciate the different types of films the Knickerbocker Theatre presents.

Another thing we did when the children were young was to cross country ski. We used to ski trails on the Northside. We used to be able to go to the Hope College Biology Field Station, but you can't do that anymore. It was fun to go skiing as a family. I guess that is about it.

TLB: Is there one job, or task, or responsibility either work related, family related, or church related that you really enjoyed since you moved here that you got a lot of fulfillment from?

ET: As the children were growing up, for the most part I didn't work. I substituted at Hope a couple of times, just for one course or one semester to fill in. I was a mother at home. I am glad that I had the opportunity to be home. I was very much involved with the work of the church teaching Sunday school and working with the youth.

One time, my husband and I were student youth group sponsors. That was life for me, plus doing other volunteer work. I was involved in Faculty Dames. I was just very busy, keeping the house, keeping the kids together, being home for them when they came home from school, trying to strengthen whatever they were doing. We'd always go to their concerts and track meets. We would always go. Life was very busy in that respect. For me personally, the work that I did in the church was very gratifying.

TLB: Is there anything that you want to add about the history of Holland or how Holland has changed that you can think of?

ET: I guess one of the things that I am very pleased with, is the positive things that they are doing to keep the city a nice city. One of these is the Weed and Seed Program. I read about this now and then. I have had people come to the house to ask me questions about how I feel about it. HOME helps people try to fix up their homes. The work that Habitat for Humanity has done around town is another one of those things that they are doing to help keep this a nice city. I think these are all admirable. I think that is very positive. I hope they continue to keep Holland beautiful and promote Holland. Even though we are becoming more diverse, we have a history and it is the Dutch, so let's celebrate that.

I grew up in a little small town where there were a lot of Dutchmen. When I was young I would say, "Well, I am really not all Dutch, because my ancestors came from France and then went to the Netherlands." I was trying to play down the Dutch heritage.

TLB: So you came from a predominately Dutch town also?

ET: Well, Waupun, Wisconsin had its share of Dutch people. Maybe we were the majority Dutch, but I don't know. It wasn't as Dutch as some places I know, but yes.

TLB: What do you see for the future of Holland?

ET: I suppose that it will continue to grow, and I hope we can keep up with that growth and that it won't fall apart and get to be a crummy place. I shouldn't say this, I suppose, but as I grew up in that little town, I just thought it was the most wonderful place to be and nothing else. When I go back there now and look at the downtown I just say, "Oh, this is just looking really run down." It just doesn't have the pizzazz like we do in Holland. I hope that never happens in Holland, that we continue to take pride in our identity, and that we offer programs to keep the place looking nice so that people will be delighted to be here.

TLB: Those are all my questions. Is there anything that you would like to add about your personal history, what it was like when you first moved to Holland, or some things you remember doing in Holland? Or even anything you remember your husband saying about Hope College?

ET: I guess that we have just been very happy here. It has been a stimulating community. I think that you find that when there is academic world about you. If you avail yourself of the opportunities for learning and associating with people, that really is stimulating and exciting. We have had a lot of opportunities to travel, so our life has been broadened beyond Holland, Michigan.

TLB: Where are some places that you have traveled to?

ET: We have been to Europe a number of times. My husband had sabbatical once, and we had that semester in Britain. Our kids went to elementary school in England. That was a good experience. We are grateful to Hope College for allowing sabbaticals to happen. It really is a broadening experience. We've travelled to the Middle East, in fact my daughter is married to a Palestinian. We've been in the Middle East a couple of times. My husband and I were in Egypt a long time ago. I have been to a number of Asian countries. He has taken Hope College students to Japan a number of different times.

I have a special feeling in my heart for the Asians, mostly because of my connections there. I have been in China and India.

TLB: Did you do any church work while you were there?

ET: That is why I did a lot of travelling. I worked for the Reformed Church in America at the denominational level for six years. From 1989 until 1995, I oversaw our mission in Asia. I made trips once or twice a year over to Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and that whole area. But that has nothing to do with Holland. [laughs]

TLB: That's okay. How did you get involved with that?

ET: I actually was asked to apply for the job. They had an opening. The reason I was asked to apply really goes back to the fact that once a year, the Reformed Church [tape flips here] has this big governing body that meets. It is called General Synod. I went to General Synod as an Elder delegate. My name was put forth to be vice

president of Synod. Every year they try to get a woman's name up for election because it is still really heavily male. My name was up. Of course, I didn't make it. I didn't expect to. I worked all the time in the local church, and I had done some work on local committees, but I hadn't done on all that much on the denominational level. I did serve in Japan for three years after college as a teacher in a mission school. Some people knew me, but a lot didn't. Then one of the persons who worked in the church in the hierarchy structure said, "We'll remember you sometime, Elaine." And low and behold, a few years later, I was asked to serve on an important committee. I was also asked to apply for this job, to oversee the work in Asia. So I didn't take the committee chairperson's position. I ended up getting the job to oversee our work in Asia. I worked for the church for six years. I commuted to the office in Grand Rapids and went all over the country for meetings as well as all over the world in Asia. It was a great experience.

TLB: Do you speak Japanese?

ET: Well, I speak a little, because I lived there for a few years. I can understand more than I can speak. When I lived in Japan, I studied Japanese for awhile. Lessons were always after teaching in school all day. I would go off to Japanese language lessons, but by that time, I was all tired out. For one reason or another, I quit. And I am so sorry that I did.

TLB: That is one of the hardest languages to learn, I bet.

ET: It is hard, but frankly I think Chinese is harder. Chinese has so many tones. I hardly dare speak a word of Chinese, because I am afraid that I am going to say a

word that means something entirely different.

TLB: What do you do if you are tone deaf like me, and you don't know?

ET: You'd be in trouble! [laughter]

TLB: I think that is it. I don't have any other questions. We covered quite a bit about Holland. Were you involved with the Reformed Church when it started having more women involved in positions? I'm not sure when this happened.

ET: Maybe fifteen years ago, but I'm not sure. At Third Church we have had a couple of different women pastors serve. We've had women elders for quite some time.

TLB: Do you remember any controversy around that?

ET: I don't remember so much controversy in Third per se. I think that we have always looked on ourselves as a more progressive kind of congregation. I do know that are still some Reformed Churches in Holland that probably don't have women elders yet. That is true across the board in different areas where they still will not allow women elders. According to church policy they are allowed, but in some local churches it is different.

TLB: When I first came to Holland, I thought all the Reformed Churches were the same. Now that I have talked to people, I see how different it is between each Reformed Church. You just have to not stereotype them all. Okay, well thank you very much.

Questions

Name: (maiden name)

Date of birth: (optional)

✓ Where were you born?

If not Holland, when did you come to Holland for the first time?

*Tell me a little bit about your family. Spouse, children, etc. Where have you lived during your life? ✓

*What are some organizations that you have been involved in? How did you get involved in the organization? What did the group do?

*What are some of the biggest changes you have seen in Holland in the past fifty years? ✓

*How have you been involved with the changes that Holland has seen, or how have you reacted to this changes? ✓

*What do you think the causes of these changes have been? What about the effects? ✓

*If you moved to Holland from another area, what were your first impressions of the city of Holland? How was/is Holland different than the place you moved here from? Why did you move to the area? What were your interaction with the people of Holland like? ✓

*What are some qualities that seem to stand out concerning the city of Holland? ✓

*What are some negative aspects of Holland? What are some drawbacks to living in Holland?

*Are you involved in the church? What is your impression of the church? What is the role the church has played and is playing in Holland? How has the church changed in the past fifty years? How has the interaction of Holland, the city, and the church changed? Why do you think this has occurred? What do you see as the effect of this? ✓

*Has there ever been any controversy in Holland? ✓

*How has Hope College changed? How has the community reacted to this? ✓

*How did the public react to the changing of Holland to become more of an industrial city that occurred during the mid-50s and the late 60s? ✓

*What do you make of the increasing diversification of the Holland community? ✓

*How do you feel the Dutch heritage plays in the community today? How does this interact with the other cultures present in the community? ✓

*Have the problems facing the general citizen of Holland changed in the past fifty years? How have they changed? Is crime different? How is your daily life different than it was 10,30,40, etc. years ago? Describe a typical day for you in 1950? 1970? ✓

*What do you make of the industry in Holland? What effect does it have on the community? Where would you speculate Holland would be without it? What about Holland has helped industry? ✓

*Can you tell me a little bit about what it was like just after World War II? What about during the Vietnam War? Or any other war...Korean...Desert Storm? How did the community react? Describe what you were doing at these times. What were some typical problems that affected citizens of the community? ✓

*Have you ever noticed a generation gap between ages in Holland? ~~Where, when, and why?~~ ✓

*Tell me about one job that you have had in the past fifty years that you particularly enjoyed and why. Where you ever employed in Holland at a job that you just did not like? Can you tell me about the situation? ✓

*Concentrating on Holland, how do you think the role of women has changed in the past fifty years? ✓

*Explain a major turning point that you've had in your life. ✓

*Can you tell me what you have heard others say of Holland, such as your family from out of town? ✓

Other questions spinning of the information that arises in the interview.