

6-12-1986

De Long, William Oral History Interview: Holland Furnace Company

Hope College

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



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), and the [Oral History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Repository citation: Hope College, "De Long, William Oral History Interview: Holland Furnace Company" (1986). *Holland Furnace Company*. Paper 4.

http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/holland_furnace/4

Published in: 1986 - *Holland Furnace Company (H88-0234)* - *Hope College Living Heritage Oral History Project*, June 12, 1986.

Copyright © 1986 Hope College, Holland, MI.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral History Interviews at Digital Commons @ Hope College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Holland Furnace Company by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Hope College. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

WILLIAM DE LONG

INTERVIEW: 12 JUNE 1986

William DeLong became acquainted with the Cheffs in 1952 or 1953. Ted called and asked him to prepare his income tax return. He has been his accountant ever since. Upon Katie's death, he became the executor of the estate. Today he is also the secretary-treasurer for the Cheff Center for the Handicapped. PT Cheff is president. Every Christmas Ted would give WD a ham. He says Ted Cheff is 81 -- eight years older than he.

ON KATIE'S WILL AND THE CHEFF CENTER:

Katherine Cheff gave Holland Junior High School a fund in memory of her son John Kolla Nystrom. She also gave a considerable amount of money to the Ottawa County Humane Society. She gave them money to buy land to build on.

In her will, she left a part for Ted and a part in a trust for Ted to use. Ted didn't want to use it. The money went over to the Cheff Foundation which is today the Cheff Center for the Handicapped in Augusta, Michigan.

"Ted didn't want the half going into trust. So it went to the Cheff Foundation. One stipulation was the Cheff Foundation had to give a contribution to the Kolla Nystrom fund at the Junior High (\$600 per year). Ted wanted to use it for something pertaining to horses and children."

WD went to the manager of the Battle Creek Hunt. A woman named Lyda McCowan who had riding stables somewhere in Virginia was asked to come to Michigan to talk to WD. She had met a man from England named John Davies who was responsible for a program for horseback riding for handicapped people. She had decided there was a therapeutic quality in horseback riding for the handicapped. She and John Davies developed this program. The Cheff Center in Augusta grew out of this and started around 1972. It still exists today. Every week there are 150 to 175 students. There are 50 to 60 similar centers in the country.

"We never charge anybody one cent for any work we do at the Cheff Center."

ON THE STEVENS DEAL:

"Charles Latimer of Muskegon handled the Stevens thing. He's no longer living."

Stevens wanted to exchange stock in his company for HFC stock, but his was worthless. During this, Latimer came in. WD wasn't with Latimer when he talked to Stevens, but afterwards, Stevens resigned.

HFC attorney Robert Trenkamp handled the deal between Stevens and HFC right up to about the time Latimer came in.

"Stevens was a promoter. He talked very influentially, but didn't influence many."

ON ATHLONE:

"Somehow Athlone acquired a lot of stock in the Holland Furnace Company. Holland Furnace became associated with Athlone because of the tax benefits of accumulated losses by Holland Furnace Company."

"Athlone continued to run the Holland Furnace Company for a time because the tax laws required it."