Buter, Harvey Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

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Oral History Interview with
Harvey Buter

Conducted August 12, 1997
by Ann Paeth

Sesquicentennial Oral History Project
"150 Stories for 150 Years"
HB: My name is Harvey Buter I was born [date removed], 1923, in Holland.

AP: Have you lived here all of your life?

HB: Yes, I’ve lived here all of my life except during World War II when I served in the military.

AP: Why don’t you start back when you started school here and tell me where you went to school and if there are any specific things from your childhood here. Usually we talk about the schools that each person went to and where they were, what they were like, etc.

HB: I began school in 1928, and I went to Longfellow School, which is still there of course. It was a different building then, we had a big red brick building, same sight however. I went to Longfellow School through the fourth grade and then my parents transferred me to the Christian School and I went to the Christian School through high school. I graduated from Holland Christian High School and then I enrolled at Hope College in the fall of 1942. Then, of course World War II was going on and they encouraged all of us at the college to enlist in the military. If we enlisted, we could choose the branch of service we wanted and probably stay in school a little bit longer. So I enlisted in the United States Army in November, 1942. I was called to active duty in March, 1943. The semester was just about over so the college gave us credit for a year of work. Then when I got into the military, I was chosen to go into
an officer candidate program at Oregon State University, after basic training that is. I was in an officer training program at Oregon State for three semesters, preparing for invasion of Japan. Then that program was terminated after the United States government determined that they were going to drop the atomic bomb on Japan instead of invading, so they then diverted everyone who was in training to Europe to try and finish that phase of the war. Then all of us young people who had been in an officer training program were immediately put into replacement status for people in Europe, as the invasion had taken place in Europe and they had to have young replacement people. We were all shipped right over there as privates, but got right into the action of that, and went into two major campaigns in the European theater. It was very obvious why they decided not to drop an atomic bomb in Europe and chose to do Japan, because Europe is where all the culture of the world is and they obviously were not going to drop an atomic bomb there. Then we could see why our program had been terminated, and they wanted to get the war over in Europe.

AP: If fact, didn’t nobody bomb Prague during the war, because wasn’t it understood that you just don’t do that?

HB: Yes, and Rome. There were certain sacred cities in Europe that weren’t bombed. So, I was in Europe when the war ended there, and then still young enough so they said some troops are going to stay here in army occupation, some are going to be in army occupation in Japan. They figured since I had already had some training for Japan they’d send me back to the United States and prepare me to go back to Japan when that war ended. I got home and, during the time I was on my leave, the war
ended in Japan also. So I didn’t have to go. I then enrolled at Hope College again, February 1946, and graduated in 1948. I received credit for a lot of my studies from Oregon State when I was in the military. So that is a brief history of my education.

AP: Looking back, how much do you think that time in the army has shaped your life back here afterwards? What kind of an impact did that have on it?

HB: Well, it entirely changed my life because I was gone 38 months and left as a boy and came back a man. I determined during that time what kind of career I wanted to pursue, that I wanted to get into business, business management. So I came back and concentrated on economics and business administration. Prior to the war, I had just taken a general course at Hope, but didn’t know exactly where I was going, but I knew (after the war) what I wanted to do. That definitely did shape my life and my career. I also decided that I wanted to live in Holland. I had seen all of the United States and I had seen a lot of the world by that time, and I decided Holland was a pretty good place to live. I wanted to come back here.

AP: Do you think that impacted a lot of others the same way, being gone for an average of three years?

HB: I’m sure it impacted a lot of people and some just the opposite, deciding well, "I’m never going to go back to a small town," when they saw people live differently in different parts of the country and have different standards, didn’t have the blue laws we had in Holland in those days. So they decided, "Well, this is my chance to spread my wings and get out and fly." While others said, "I want Holland."

AP: What was Hope College like when you first started there and then what was it like
when you came back? I imagine it was a bit different when the war ended?

HB: Hope was a good school already then as you could tell by the graduates from much earlier than when I was there. They were very successful. Enrollment was around 500 and it was a real close knit school. We had a lot of fun. When I came back there was a bulge of World War II people who came back and were going to school under the GI Bill of Rights. So right away, in the latter part of 1946, the enrollment went up to 1,200, so it had more than doubled than when I was a freshman. They didn’t have the dormitories to take care of students, so they built temporary dormitories and bought old army barracks which they erected on the campus to house students. They brought in a lot of new professors, gave a lot of opportunity for new people. But all of the core professors, the cadre, were still there and upheld the standards of the college. I think they have always had high standards and kept them.

AP: Did you see a difference in the student body between those that had just started college and those of you that had been in the war, and were coming back on the GI Bill?

HB: Yes. There were a lot of differences because we were three years older than most everybody there. And we probably married women that we wouldn’t have married. I didn’t know my wife before I went into the military. My wife is three years younger than I, and that is just about what happened to most of the men that came back. The girls at college were three years younger than we were, so that really impacted our lives. It also impacted their lives. My wife had been at school for one year and there were hardly any men there, then all of a sudden these guys all came back. It
sure had an impact on both of our lives.

AP: How do you see Hope now? Do you have much contact with it as an alum?

HB: Yes, I still have contact with Hope. Hope has continued to grow in a lot of ways. I think it becomes a better school every year academically, and financially much more sound because they have done a lot of work on development. Their facilities are just excellent, probably better than any small college in this area. I think, from everything that I’ve read, that their academic achievements and standards are higher than most Division III colleges.

AP: Let’s go back to when you graduated from Hope and you met your wife. What happened from there?

HB: I played basketball and football at Hope, and our coach was also the dean of men, Milton Hinga. I told him right off when I got back that I would like to get a job in the Holland area after I graduated. He knew a lot of people, and so I said to him, keep your eye out for when I graduate in 1948 so I’ll have a job here. In the spring of 1948, we graduated around the first of June, I would say in about February, he called me and said, "I have somebody that is looking for a college graduate to come into their company. It’s a small company that’s about to grow and they need some help. Are you interested?" That was the Holland Motor Express, which was a small transportation company serving the midwest. I went and talked with them and they said they’d like to hire me and wondered if I’d like to come to work part-time right then - they needed help. Most of my classes were in the morning, so I went to work for them afternoons, just as soon as the basketball season was over. Then in June,
when I graduated, I went to work full-time. By the time I went to work full-time, they already said, "We are going to pay you more than we told you, because you proved yourself in these months." So I got in on the ground floor of a company that was just about to really explode. And they did, so I was part of that.

AP: Tell me about how that company has grown and where it at today.

HB: Holland Motor Express was a company that started in Holland in 1929 and was a small regional carrier. As I recall, revenues were about three million dollars a year when I joined, and now they have revenues of three million dollars a day, plus. They have become the dominant motor carrier in the whole midwest. The company was sold to United States Freight, and is now USF Holland Motor Express. It is a very reliable, good motor freight company. I worked there until I was sixty years old and that is when the company was sold. I was the vice-president of sales and marketing, and what I could see is an outside company and, if I wanted to make a change, this would be the time to do it. And I did. So I then went to work for Old Kent Bank and worked for Old Kent Bank for ten years after that. I had two careers, one a little shorter than the other. It is interesting, that the general perception of a banker is that it is probably the ultimate job that somebody would have. What I found out, and of course knew going in, is I earned about one quarter of what I did in the trucking business. Everybody thinks bankers make the big money and you are held in very high esteem. It’s a prestigious job, whereas I had a much more responsible job and actually much more prestigious job in the trucking industry, yet people locally wouldn’t even know that. But on the national level, I had much more recognition.
AP: My mom is an executive secretary at a bank, so she is the secretary for the president and vice-president. They don't have a lot of perks unless they decide to give them to themselves. They had an old administration that tried to do that and they are no longer there. What was it like being at Old Kent Bank, besides that?

HB: Old Kent is a wonderful bank, a very nice place to work, and very well managed. If I could give anybody advice, I'd say buy Old Kent Stock because they are a great bank.

AP: How large of an area do they service?

HB: Old Kent serves most of Michigan now. They are expanding too, and they also have now expanded into Chicago, so it is now in that part of Illinois, plus all of Michigan. Probably because of their size and assets, they would be a bank that will be right for a takeover. As they say, someday there are going to be five banks in the United States, so Old Kent will be one that is plucked off eventually, I would presume. Or they'll continue to expand and become one of those larger banks. But it's a great bank.

AP: Have things changed a lot in terms of our use of money now, given that there are so many different way to spend your money through different Visa and debit cards, checks, etc.

HB: That is the biggest change in my lifetime. When I was a kid, and probably half of my life, it was a cash society and now it's a paper society. I do all of my purchasing using my Master Card. I use very little cash and I write very few checks. Electronic banking is the big thing in the banking industry. They make their money really in
fees now, just as much earnings as making loans.

AP: Do you think that is a good way to move? Some people I’ve talked to that have seen this change through a lifetime are very wary of using electronic banking.

HB: Yes, people my age are wary of electronic things, but the kids all learn this right from the time they enter school now. One of the differences from when I started in the business world, is copying machines. We didn’t even have photocopiers. If we had to have proof of a document that you didn’t want to send away, we’d take it down to a photographer and have a picture made of it. There was no such things as the photocopy machines, duplicators and things like that. So that is one of the big things that has changed - the in-house printing, now desktop printing, your own house newsletters all done internally that look very professional.

AP: I imagine you’ve used computers quite a bit in your work?

HB: Of course that is the other big change, the computers. I was always in a top management position so I never used computers myself. That is too bad because I should know how to use a computer, but I’m computer illiterate, because I was not forced to, had somebody else doing it for me. I don’t think that will ever happen again, because kids now learn computers right in school, like I learned to type when I was in high school. I can still type very well. It is something like riding a bicycle, you never lose that. That is just a peculiarity of my generation because we didn’t learn computers and I was not forced to.

AP: Again, I run into some people that through some circumstances have become very computer literate, and I run into other people that won’t even touch a computer.
HB: I use a computer, but have somebody else run it for me. I'm the treasurer of a lot of volunteer organizations, and most of that work is done on the computer, but I just give the paperwork to somebody to enter into the computer, rely on somebody else.

AP: Since you just mentioned that you are treasurer for a lot of organizations, what kind of organizations have you been involved in? What kind of activities have you been involved in in the community?

HB: I am treasurer of Holland Community Foundation, a very viable organization growing in Holland. I am also treasurer of Third Reformed Church, and I have been for many years. We have the operations of both of those organizations on computer. I do the book work, but let them put it into the computer. I have been president of HEDCOR, I had an interview about HEDCOR before. I have also been president of the Holland Chamber of Commerce, president of the Holland Community Hospital, and president of the Holland Board of Education. Those are the major organizations.

AP: Were there any large projects or movements that you were involved in when you were in one of those organizations, like the hospital, or the school?

HB: The hospital, of course, is always under construction. We had a lot of big construction projects when I was on the Holland Hospital board. With the Holland Board of Education, I think we built five new schools in the time that I was on the Board of Education. The biggest coup as far as I'm concerned is that I was the person who led the community to build a community swimming pool. We did not have a swimming pool for Holland schools, neither Holland Public Schools, nor Holland Christian Schools. Our community was kind of leery of building a
swimming pool at the high school, wondering how much it would add to the taxes. So we sat down with all of the different schools: Holland Christian Schools, St. Francis, Seventh Day Adventists, and Hope College even joined in. We proposed that we build a community pool, and do it separate from the Holland Public Schools. It would be a separate entity and assess their own taxes and every organization part of it would share in the use of the building. Primarily we would have swimming instructions for every child, starting in elementary school, and hopefully before they got out of the sixth grade, every child would be able to swim. Our community accepted that, and we built the pool. Then, of course, the high schools wanted to add competitive swimming, which was good, so we’ve done competitive swimming for both Holland Christian and Holland High School there. The pool has really become too small now, so they are building a new pool, under the same concept however. It is still going to be a community pool.

AP: Were there any other important actions that you remember being involved with in these groups?

HB: Well, in the last fifteen years, the biggest success has been the Holland Community Foundation. The Holland Community Foundation was formed in the late 1940s, but it was dormant for many years. Then the late Charles Conrad approached me and said, "We have the organization of the Holland Community Foundation, but it is dormant. Would you be willing to join with me and see if we can rebuild that organization?" So in the late 1970s we did revive it, and it had assets of about $200,000. We set as a goal, that during our lifetime we wanted to raise those assets
to $500,000. We were thinking way too small, because it really took off. We had a Holland Community Foundation meeting yesterday, and our assets were nine million dollars. This has been a great success, and we think we are just scratching the surface. This is going to be a great asset for this community as the Community Foundation continues to grow so that we can fund a lot of projects that will not have to go on the tax rolls and charitable organizations who depend on the Foundation to have income.

AP: Being involved in an organization like that, do you have any idea how Holland compares to other communities, as far as its charitable organizations? What is your assessment of Holland?

HB: The peculiarities of Holland, and I suppose some communities have the same thing, but we have Hope College, the Western Seminary, and the Holland Christian Schools, and they are all organizations that depend on support from the public. They have development directors that are calling on people and they have been very successful doing that. The College, and the Seminary, and Holland Christian Schools have all built big endowments so it was difficult for us to have an endowment outside of those organizations. And while we are doing this, new organizations begin to come to the surface and hire development officers. Hospice, Camp Geneva, and Community Action House - all very legitimate needs and organizations, but they are all competing for the same dollar. I presume most communities have that, but I don’t think every community has responded like Holland. Holland has very generous people. Holland supports its churches very well. We have some very successful churches and that is
people's first priority, but when Holland Community Foundation asks for money, people say "My church, Hope College, Western Seminary, Holland Christian Schools...," and we go in the pecking order. But we have done well despite that, which means Holland is very generous. We have a lot of people who are willing to give time and resources.

AP: How has Holland changed, comparing it to growing up, just coming back after being in the army, to now? What kinds of things have you seen change?

HB: When I was a boy, Holland was very small. It was a sleepy little midwest town and very Dutch oriented. I would say half of the people, when I was growing up, still spoke Dutch, and not only Dutch, but also dialects such as Frisian, and some German. My parents were immigrants and spoke two or three different dialects, so we heard different languages. It was difficult for us when we went to school. Most of our English phrases, and probably you even still recognize it, have a Dutch or German phrasing to them. We form our words and our sentences different than people do in other areas. Holland was basically all white, the white Dutch, and when I came back from the military, we already had some Hispanics here that had come in, H. J. Heinz had brought them here. Also the nursery people had brought some in just to get labor here. I guess that was alarming to some people, but it was natural. It was going to happen. Still, there were no blacks here. These people integrated very well. I don’t think that blacks started to come into this area, that I noticed, until the 1980s, and about the same time, Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians started to come into this area. And that is when I noticed, in the 80s, that we really had got an
influx of other nationalities in this community, and that is the biggest change in this community. From just the white Dutch people, when I was a kid, to a variety of people now. Is that the kind of thing you were thinking about?

AP: Yes.

HB: That was very noticeable to me in my lifetime.

AP: How do you think Holland has handled that, or how has that affected the community?

HB: It was very difficult at first, but I think that because of the strong religious ties in this community, the community has learned to accept this as the way it has to be, and has adjusted and accepted. Some people may argue with me about that, but I think we are doing quite well with that. When I see the troubles in some communities, and when I went into the military at 18-19 years old, and went down South, I was just shocked to see how blacks were treated. I just couldn’t imagine that they made blacks sit in the back of the bus and have separate drinking fountains and separate rest rooms and were almost spit upon and scoffed. It was very hard for someone who had grown up here to see that kind of a thing. So probably the people that went into the military were pretty well insulated when they came back to this kind of a thing, and it probably helped the people who didn’t go away understand that this is the way it is in the world.

AP: And maybe keeping in mind that aspect of Christian love probably has helped. It is interesting that you mention a large portion of people spoke Dutch when you grew up, because it seems like we are going through the same thing with Spanish right now in the community, with a lot of people speaking Spanish and adjusting to those
language barriers. Have you had any experience with that?

HB: No, I guess I'm shocked that the Hispanics still want to speak Spanish, that they don't work harder in trying to learn English. I'm not criticizing them for that, that is their culture. But I know it was so important for our parents for us to get an education that they didn't have, and to be sure that we learned English as well as we could. They would never talk Dutch to us. They would converse in Dutch, but always spoke English to us, and we always had to speak English in the home. I don't know that the Hispanics are doing that. I wish they would. I think that could break some barriers.

AP: How did your family come to this area?

HB: They moved right here from the Netherlands. They came in the 1890s, and Holland had already been formed, but obviously in the "Old Country" they had decided this was the area they wanted to come to, and they came right here. My mother said it was very difficult for her dad to get a job because he couldn't speak English. He had to rely on someone to speak for him. When you are going for a job interview, that is very difficult. I'm sure they had some empathy for the people from Mexico and Texas who come up here and can't speak English because they went through it all themselves.

AP: I was away this weekend and a young man came up to us at McDonalds while we were standing in line and he had a piece of paper with a lot of words scribbled on it. They were words that he had heard somewhere, or seen somewhere and he was trying to find out what they meant, so we were helping him. He spoke enough English so
we could explain with some larger words, and so that was kind of interesting.

What other things have changed? Obviously the size of the town is a lot bigger.

Have you been going to Third Reformed the entire time you have been here, has the church changed a lot?

HB: No, this church has not changed a lot, it's always been a very progressive church, geared to a very high type of music and liturgy. I don't see a lot of changes in this church. The things that I'm impressed with, with Holland right now is the progressiveness in downtown Holland for one. They were kind of forced into that by Mr. Prince, but they have picked up on that. When he died, that could have all just been dropped, but the community has taken that up and continued to improve the downtown and that is starting to reflect into the whole community now and to other neighborhoods as "Let's do what we can to try and rebuild neighborhoods." I think our city has done a tremendous job on parks and athletic fields compared to other communities and compared to when I was a kid or even up to ten years ago, when they didn't allocate any tax dollars to those kinds of things. We are building some very nice parks and recreation facilities and that is going bode well for this community in years to come. I guess that is just an example of our community becoming more progressive in most everything that they do.

AP: What kind of neighborhoods have you lived in growing up, and also living here?

HB: We lived on the southeast side, in the area where Baker Furniture is. When I was a kid, that was the Holland Furnace Company area, the biggest employer in Holland. They kind of set the pace for everything. When kids went to school and the teacher
asked them, "what do you want to do?" they said, "I want to work at Holland Furnace." That was their dream to have that big, beautiful office, and they had the highest salaries around. That was the ideal, and of course, that company went under. The city didn’t go under with it. That was just a nice, clean, fine area to live in. People kept their homes up very well. The problem with the core city is the lots are too small and that is why houses are close together, and I think that is why you have deterioration in the core city.

AP: People that can afford to are going to go somewhere else where they can have a larger yard?

HB: That’s right. When I was a kid, a big lot was 50 foot lot, and now you don’t build a house unless it is on a 100 foot lot, at least. People are now talking about a third acre, and when you build on that kind of acreage, you build a pretty substantial home and keep it up. That is probably the biggest difference from when I was a kid. When I was a boy, a home in that area with one bathroom was a real luxury, because our parents came here and had outhouses. When they had a bathroom inside with a bathtub and a shower, that was really a luxury for them. So when we got married and built our first home, we had one and a half bathrooms, and they thought that was really something, that you could have one and a half bathrooms. Now, our kids, if you don’t have three bathrooms, you really aren’t in it at all. That’s the change in my lifetime, from the outhouses to three bathrooms (laughs). So if you want a change in culture, that’s it. Most people had a small garage in the back of their house, with long driveways. Now all homes are built with a garage attached.
AP: Did they have alleyways?

HB: There were a lot of alleyways. I would say, up until about 19th Street, the city had all been plotted out with alleyways. Even in the late 30s, those alleyways, a lot of them were closed. There are still a few around. They began, I would say, in the late 30s, to close those alleys.

AP: Do you know why that change happened, because I think that happened almost everywhere.

HB: I guess it just wasn't popular. They just began to disappear. People preferred to have their own driveway and come in from the front and not the back. And alleyways were dirty. They were not paved, so if somebody drove through them there would be a big cloud of dust, and if mother had her washing out on the back line, it would get all dirty from that. They didn't like to have houses with alleyways because of that. It is also a lot safer without alleyways. Now all homes are built with an attached garage so you can get right out of your car and walk into the house without being outside. That is something I've seen in my lifetime. Also, bigger automobiles. We were lucky to have one automobile when I was a kid, and now everybody has got to have two at least. Now a lot of houses are built with three garages, because you have to have three vehicles. Mother, and dad, and the kids each have their own car.

(end of side one)

AP: Where are you living now? What kind of neighborhood is it?

HB: I live on 31st, where the Wildwood area is, west of Jefferson school, between Van
Raalte and Harrison. We have lived there for about 40 years now. We built that house. When we built that house, there was no road. They showed us where the road would be, and we built our house. By the time we moved in, they had to extend the road from Van Raalte to our house so we could get in. That is almost the heart of the city now.

AP: So you have seen that area change quite a bit.

HB: And that was the second house we built. We had built a home earlier right near the hospital, and that’s all part of the new hospital complex now. That house is long gone, so the house we live in now was the second house we built as a couple.

AP: How would you describe your neighborhood now?

HB: We still have a very nice neighborhood. Because of the size of the homes and size of the lots. As far as I’m concerned, it’s still attractive.

AP: So no condominium, yet, for you?

HB: No, we’ve talked about it, but at this point have not done it. We have a large home – hard to give up.

AP: We were talking about the different ethnic groups coming into Holland and that your family came from the Netherlands. How do you see that Dutch heritage affecting the community today? What role does it play?

HB: Less and less every year, I would think. I have no strong feelings about it. It was very important when I was a kid, but it sure isn’t anymore.

AP: Has Tulip Time changed?

HB: It has gotten bigger. I have been in the parades ever since the first one, when I was
in third grade at Longfellow School, we were in the parade. I guess I was in the first Tulip Time parade. We all dressed up in Dutch costumes and decorated our bicycles, and things like that. We had floats, but it has just become bigger and better, and better organized.

AP: Last year, Holland was named a "Top Ten All-American City." What qualities about Holland, do you think, are unique or special that earns it that honor?

HB: I think we have done a very good job accepting the diversities of people, integrating them. Also, our city council, and police department through city council, have done a good job regulating, or putting their finger on crime. I would say five years ago things were really bad. A lot of gangs and deterioration, and the city has worked hard to police areas and make them safe. They are not all as safe as we want them to be yet, but they’ve sure worked hard to keep them safe. Also, we have set some very stringent building codes, especially for rentals. I know that through our church we own a rental, and we want that property for expansion, but we are using it as an affordable housing rental now. To have that on the market we have to meet very strict regulations as far as heating, plumbing, electrical to make that home safe and livable for the occupants. That is good, and has helped to keep the standards of our core city up, and I don’t think we’ll have slums, per say, because of that.

AP: Are there things that the city isn’t addressing, or problems that we need to work on?

HB: I’m pretty much a fan of Holland, as you can tell, so I haven’t thought about negatives. I presume there are people that could tell you all kinds of things, but I think they pretty well addressed the problems, and are working on them. I am not
saying there are not problems, but they are sure working hard on it. We would not have been chosen for this award if we were not working on the problems.

AP: It seems like the city does a good job of facing up to, and addressing those things right away.

HB: Do you live in Holland, or are you a student?

AP: I am a student at Hope, so I've been here for four years. I have certainly learned a lot about it talking to so many different people. I've talked to about 40 different people this summer, so I have learned a lot about the city. Did you have children?

HB: Yes, I have two children, and they both live here. Our son works for Steelcase, out in Grand Rapids. He commutes, and has lived in St. Louis and New Orleans, Cincinnati, Dallas, and Grand Rapids, and was just so happy to come back to Holland. His last stint was 15 years in Dallas, and he waited every day to come back here. He is just very happy to be back here. My daughter has lived here all of her life. My daughter and her husband live out west of the city and Jim lives out on the east of the city, so they are both here.

AP: So they really enjoyed their time growing up here?

HB: Yes, they were both educated in Holland, Hope College.

AP: What things are you most thankful for in the city of Holland, or in your life here?

What things are you most thankful for, or most appreciative of?

HB: I guess that is something I would like to have about ten minutes to think about. I guess the high moral and ethical standards of the great majority of the people and their living to their religious convictions. I still think this is a clean city, a desirable
city to live in and bring up a family.

AP: Have your priorities changed over the course of your life?

HB: I don’t think so.

AP: What would you consider them to be?

HB: I guess, now that I rethink that, because of my age, my priorities have changed. As I told you early on, I wanted a job in this community, be able to live in this community, bring my family up in this community, and that is still a high priority. Although, my family is now grown, so that part of it is not as important. At this point, carrying that priority through is to be able to see the city continue on as high a plane as it is, and continue to improve as much as we can.

AP: Are there any other things that we should talk about that we haven’t covered about your life here, or about Holland?

HB: I think you have done a pretty good job picking my brain. I guess there are a lot of other things I could talk about that would be irrelevant to what you are thinking about.

AP: We’ve hit a lot of the major topics about the city and how it has changed. Thank you very much for taking time out to participate in another oral history for us.

HB: Well thank you for asking me, and I hope it will help.