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De Weerd, Herm Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

Cobie Moore
Oral History Interview with
Herm De Weerd

Conducted November 11, 1997
by Cobie Moore

Sesquicentennial Oral History Project
"150 Stories for 150 Years"
CM: Mr. De Weerd could you tell me a little bit about your early life here? Where you were born and grew up and so on and your family?

HD: Well, I was born in Holland here and my dad was trying to get ahead a lot. He'd buy a house, and in those days they had a Michigan cellar on it and he would dig a basement in it and put a furnace in it. We would live there for three, four, or five years and then he would sell it and he would buy another house and do the same thing. He slowly got ahead that way, too, until the Depression. We lived on 14th Street between Pine and Maple, and we lived on 16th Street between Pine and River. We lived on East 16th Street between Central and College.

CM: What were the streets like at that time? Were they like what they are now?

HD: No, they weren't paved. I remember when 17th Street got paved when I was a kid.

CM: It was dirt before then?

HD: Yeah, it was just a dirt road. My aunt and uncle and their kids lived on 17th Street, and we lived on 16th Street. I used to play with my cousins all the time. I remember that well, that the paving went on during that time. Also, there were other streets that got paved later. One of our kids was allergic to tar, so when they paved that street he had a sinus infection all the time from the smell of the tar.

CM: What do you remember? What else do you remember? There probably weren't many cars....
HD: Well, I remember the road to Grasschap was Washington Avenue straight out and it was a dirt road, and also the road to Chicago went through Central Park and down the road to Saugatuck due to the fact that the highway went through Saugatuck. Later they made two different improvements on that road to Chicago from Holland on South Washington. In fact, I remember it well because the American Legion Band played for that opening when they opened that road where I-96 is started now. It was M-11 at that time, and then it was U.S. 31.

CM: You attended that ceremony?

HD: Yes. I played in the band when they had the opening of that highway.

CM: You said it was the trombone? You played the trombone at that time?

HD: Yes.

CM: Well did your family travel much? Did you use those roads?

HD: No.

CM: Well, getting back to the neighborhoods where you grew up, what other changes have you seen through the years?

HD: Well, I remember when, well I think it was when I was first in the band even, that the Interurban ran down 8th Street and then down River Avenue to 13th Street and I remember marching down the street over those tracks down the middle.

CM: Was that hard?

HD: Yeah. It was hard for the bass drummer because he couldn't see; he had that big bass drum in front of him!

CM: Well, tell me about your family. How many brothers and sisters?
HD: Well I just had one brother and one sister. Our whole family was artistically inclined. My sister was an art teacher. She went to Hope for a couple of years, and then she transferred to Kalamazoo College. She got a Degree over there. Then she taught in the Kalamazoo School System all her life. A couple of summers she went to Columbia University and got a Masters Degree in Art. My brother was a sign painter, and I’m a sign painter. I still do country painting and all of this stuff here I do.

CM: Mr. De Weerd is pointing at some paintings, small paintings of fruit, that are hanging in his kitchen here. So you painted those yourself?

HD: Yeah. In fact everything here, this stuff, too.

CM: Oh, very nice. There is a religious painting here, too. A man praying....

HD: Oh, no. I didn’t paint that one.

CM: Oh, no. Okay, you didn’t do that one, but these of flowers and a butterfly and so on small pieces of wood. Your brother's name is....

HD: Gary. He died about five or six years ago. We were in business together, he and I, and also Milton Putton who died maybe three years ago.

CM: And your sisters name?

HD: Georgia. Her last name was George. Georgia George. She married a teacher from Reed City, and they moved to Reed City and she taught there the last few years of her teaching life. She’s a talented lady, she’s a really good artist. Not just in painting but she’s won many prizes in making bedspreads and that sort of thing. She entered them at fairs and stuff. She was good at that. Also she was good at clay
figures or clay objects, and she had her own little fire furnace. Now she’s been taking up writing. Eighty-eight years old and she’s in a home in Grand Rapids. They made her editor of the paper of the paper over there and she’s doing real well, too.

CM: Great! Well, Mr. De Weerd, did you get your talent, you and your brother and sister, from your parents? Were they artistic?

HD: My mother was artistic. I can remember when, even before I went to school, she used to sit there and draw and they were really realistic, too. More so than I. That’s what I remember about my mother’s drawing and art work.

CM: And you picked it up from her?

HD: I think so.

CM: Just around the house....

HD: It’s odd because it missed a generation. My kids are not artistic, but now our grandkids are picking it up. We have one grandkid, a son of Debbie, they live in St. Joe, and he’s really artistic, he’s good. He’s a senior in high school now. Also, another granddaughter, she’s going to special art classes because the teacher thought she was talented. She’s only in the seventh grade. It skipped a generation. I heard before that it often does that with talents.

CM: Well, your talent stood you in good stay. I want to get to your business experience, but first let me get a little bit of information about your education. Where did you go to grade school?

HD: Washington School is the first one I remember. You know, it’s odd because what I
remember about that is in about the second or third grade. The teacher, the art teacher came in, and had the students do some art work. They picked mine, and they gave me a jar of candy. It’s funny that I remember that so well. It was a jar of candy, like this with a cap on you know, with hard candy in it and that’s what I got for drawing the best picture. That’s what I remember.

CM: Your prize.

HD: Yeah. Then I went to Longfellow school. We moved into that district on 16th Street on the wrong side of the road, and I went to Longfellow School. Then we moved across the road, and I went to Froebel School. That’s behind the Central Avenue Church, now. The junior high was next to the grade school. We moved from 6th grade into the junior high, and at that time they built the new junior high on River Avenue. I was in seventh grade, and I remember that when we moved from the old junior high to the new junior high, we all had to carry our books, and we had a big line and we walked all the way from one school to the other.

CM: Wow! How many times did you make the trip? Just once?

HD: Yeah, just one. Everybody had to carry their own books.

CM: Well, that’s a neat memory. What did you think of the new junior high when you first started there?

HD: Oh. We thought that was it. That was good. In fact, later, when they moved the students out, I wondered how come they would do that because it looked so good. That junior high building looked so nice, and it seems so serviceable even to this day, but I guess it doesn’t come up to standards; I don’t know.
CM: Is that the E.E. Feld building on River?

HD: That’s where the Board of Education has an office now.

CM: Were you able to take some special art classes there?

HD: In high school, yes. In fact, I got through high school in three and a half years because I had enough credits, and I was a half year student so I graduated with the class ahead of me. But it was only because I was in band and orchestra all the time, and art, that I got the extra credits.

CM: Did you immediately become involved then after graduation with the sign business?

HD: I worked there the summer before I graduated, and then after I graduated, and I kept working there. My brother had already been working there, and was a part of the business. So he says,"Do you want to make this your life’s work?", and I said yeah. So he said okay, so then I worked full time after that.

CM: What was the name of the business?

HD: City Sign Company.

CM: Oh, it was then?

HD: Yeah.

CM: Who owned it?

HD: Rueben Tromp owned it first, and then Ade Klaasen bought it from him. We worked for Ade Klaasen, my brother and I, on a percentage. Then, later, we bought the business from Ade Klaasen. He was the first owner, Reuben Tromp.

CM: Okay. I know there has been a painter in Holland’s past by the name of Tromp. Maybe a relative.
HD: Ade Klassen, he was the one that bought it from Tromp. He went to the University of Chicago, and graduated from there. Then, he was on the Board of Public Works for a long time, Adrian was. He was involved with city politics more or less. He bought another plant in Benton Harbor and he got too busy and so then we bought this from him.

CM: When did you buy it?

HD: I don’t even know. I don’t remember.

CM: When did you graduate from high school?

HD: 1929.

CM: You worked, you didn’t buy the business....

HD: No, I must have worked there 20 years or so before we bought it.

CM: What was it like working for Klassen?

HD: Very good. I did the bulletins, if you know what that means. Those are the signs on the highway. The big signs. I did those; they’d give me a sketch and I would lay it out and paint those and I’d have a helper. I liked that work, too.

CM: You must have needed a lot of work space, to work on big billboards.

HD: Well, those we did in the country when they were already up.

CM: Oh, so this was outdoors work and you painted it right there. How did you manage that? You used ladders....

HD: Yeah. Ladders and stage.

CM: Were you painting directly on wood, or....How was it done in those days?

HD: Well, it was 5 x 10 panels. 10 feet high and 5 feet wide, and then they’d nail them
up so that it was one big sign with a metal face and that’s what we painted on.

CM: How many people were employed there?

HD: We always had a couple extra help in the summer. Kids. Otherwise there was my brother and myself and Milt VanFutten and Jack Klassen. Later, they hired another glass blower for neon work, and an electrician. So, we were maybe within five or six of us the whole time.

CM: What different kinds of work were done? You mentioned "neon work".

HD: Yeah, Ade set up a neon plant and he started blowing glass and then his brother took over. He continued blowing glass.

CM: Can you describe how that was done? A glass sign? Is that like to go in a window?

HD: No. It was tubing. Glass tubing; they would heat it and they would form letters with it, and then they would take all of the air and impurities out of it and they would let a little gas in with an electrode on each end and then put an electric current on it and then it would light up like a neon sign.

CM: Oh. So it would be lighted letters. Where would you find some of those signs?

HD: Oh, there’s a lot of them around town yet.

CM: Oh, really? Still up? Where are some of them?

HD: Most of the businesses have got an open sign that they turn on when they’re in there, and they’re neon, too. The trend has gone to plastic. There is a lot more plastic now, although neon seems to be coming back a little again. Neon is much more penetrating as far as advertising goes, but you get a little bit more limited to copy because they have to bend the glass to form letters you know.
CM: What work did your brother do?

HD: He was a sign painter.

CM: Like you? He did the billboards....

HD: Well, yeah. Lettered trucks and store windows. "Commercial" work we called it.

CM: So he wasn't usually there at the shop either, he was out painting on location...

HD: Well, he, my brother, did most of the shop work. For sale signs and stuff for merchants with guards.

CM: Any other types of signage that you did or that was done then? Did you do street signs?

HD: I remember when Tulip Time started. We were so busy, in fact, we worked the week before Tulip Time and were working day and night because they had no street signs at Tulip Time lanes or any other signs that went in front of the exhibits and the programs and such. We were the only sign shop at that time, so they came to us for all their signs. We were really busy then!

CM: Did you get to enjoy Tulip Time or did you rest then after all of your hard work? Did you get to enjoy Tulip Time yourself?

HD: Oh, yeah. That's the thing about being in business for yourself. You don't go to work at eight in the morning and go home at five. You go at seven and you come home at eight at night instead of five. I think that the burden was on my wife as much as anything because she never knew when I was coming home for supper. It's that way yet with guys that run their own business.

CM: When you were first hired there, in 1929, where was the company located?
HD: We were located on River Avenue upstairs. I don’t know what store there is below it now, but it was about the middle of the block between Eight and Seventh street on the west side of the road. We had the second story and we had the basement. There was a paint shop on the first floor. That’s where we did our business.

CM: Convenient. How long did the stay at that address?

HD: We moved about twenty-five years ago I guess. We were there a long time. Then we went to Zeeland Road and there is a big furniture store there now.

CM: VanHill furniture?

HD: No. It was almost at the edge of town. It was a big building, though. We could run big trucks in there. In fact we could set up a 10 X 50 foot bulletin inside and paint on it.

CM: Did work under Mr. Klassen and Mr. Tromp stay pretty much the same until you and your brother bought the business?

HD: I think so. Yeah. Ade bought a business in Benton Harbor. That was where they stick paper to a sign board. That was more lucrative, I guess, than painting everything by hand. Then he went into full time with that, and we bought this all from him.

CM: There was another partner you said... Milton VanPutten?

HD: He just died about three years ago I guess. He was a good sign painter, too. In fact, he worked for us under the school program, where you could hire somebody from the school at a reduced rate and they would work for you. He was interested in it, and when he got through with it, the school program, we asked him if he didn’t want to
keep right on working there, and he said yes. So he went through High School, and
after he graduated kept right on working for us. Five or ten years later he bought
into the business and we were the three of us.

CM: You said he made the neon signs? Is that correct?

HD: No. He was a lettering man. Jack Klassen made the neon signs.

CM: So you and your brother and Milt, were you equal partners then once you bought it?
You ran the company as well as did the work?

HD: Yeah.

CM: Did Rueben Tromp and Ade Klassen do any hands on work themselves, or were they
basically managers?

HD: Rueb was really the owner before my time. Klassen worked for Rueb, and then Ade
bought it from Rueb. That's the way that went from there on.

CM: Okay. Can you recall for me some of your favorite projects or some of your most
loyal customers?

HD: No, but there was a wall job on Seventh Street, I think it was, for a beer company.
There was a picture of a beer bottle and a mug of beer. I was proud of that one
because that was a nice work of art. Also, some 7-Up posters or bulletins that we did
where they had pictures of hamburgers or hot dogs or something on them, I was
proud of them too because I thought I did good work.

CM: Was that beer picture for a local distributor?

HD: Yes.

CM: Did you hear of any negative feedback from the fact that beer was advertised so
prominently.

HD: Well, it was on the side of a building and the building was over on sixth or seventh street. It wasn’t residential. I never heard of anything unless the distributor got some kicks on it. I don’t think so though.

CM: I ask because Holland residents sometimes might take offense at something like that. There have been many taverns downtowns in years past however.

HD: I also recall that when the 7-Up company started, Phil Brooks started that, he was delivering pop with his car, he didn’t even have a truck. We had to put 7-Up on the side of his car. I thought of that later when I drive by 7-Up. How he started out with just a car. Haworth was the same way. He used to come into the shop and order some little signs when he was starting, and now look at him. That’s what happens over the years I guess.

CM: Well, you mentioned that the City of Holland was one of your customers for Tulip Time. What about the Street Department?

HD: Well, I think it was all under one then. They had a committee for both I think from the City and from the Street Department.

CM: What other customers do you remember?

HD: I don’t remember many, but the artistic part of it you kind of remember. Everything is stick on now and they do it with a computer, but when we were painting, we used to put the doctors name on the door in gold-leaf or I remember P.S. Boter downtown had the name on both doors in gold-leaf. That seems to be a kind of a lost art now.

CM: I imagine as you went around town, in years past, would you see a lot of your work?
HD: Oh, yeah. All the time.

CM: You said that your company was the only one of its kind for a quite a while. What and when was your competition?

HD: Hank Turling was a sign painter. He was on his own. He was busy all the time, too. But any big stuff, we had to do.

CM: Any other competition that you can remember?

HD: Well, there was always sign painters that would come through town, stay for a few days and pick up some jobs. We called them scabs. One thing I recall, we made the sign for DeVries and Dornbuss on Eighth Street. It must have been two stories high, this sign was, and I remember we had to put it up at night because we were stopping traffic to get it up there.

CM: How was the sign hung?

HD: It was a narrow upright sign a couple of stories high with the copy up and down. I remember because we had to work at night for one thing because we were stopping traffic with it on the road and on the sidewalk.

CM: You must have had someone in your shop who was a good woodworker. Was that you? You and your brother?

HD: If we had the wood signs and stuff we used to get them from the Scott Lugers Lumber Company which was just about a block down the road. The electrician was Fred VanderPleug, he worked in the basement. He made electric signs down there.

CM: So you had people that you could turn to... How seasonal was your work load?

HD: The winter was our slow time, but in the spring it picked up and we were always
busy in the summer.

CM: Why was that?

HD: I don’t know. One thing was that in the spring when the merchants made out their tax forms, if they showed a profit they would buy a new truck. The weather had something to do with it, too.

CM: Who handled your paperwork? Did you have a bookkeeper on staff?

HD: Yes. We had a bookkeeper.

CM: Is some of your handy work still up?

HD: I don’t know. Every once in a while I’ll run across something and I’ll say to my wife, "I painted that." There’s a sign in Saugatuck, just south of Douglas it’s called "Pampered Pets" or something like that. I think it’s a place where they board dogs. She wanted a picture of a dog on that. It was about a 4 x 8 foot sign and I put a picture of a dog on there, and that sign was still up. I rode by there not too long ago and that sign was still up there with that picture of that dog on there.

CM: I imagine it would be hard to remember every sign you’ve done, but can you recognize your own handiwork when you see it?

HD: Oh, yeah. In fact, I can recognize other people’s signs. I can see a sign and say, "Well, so-and-so did that." It’s just like handwriting, you get to know it. Hank Turling’s signs, we recognize his signs all of the time. Other guys, too. We had a guy that worked for us called Max Hennexsy who lived in Saugatuck and I would recognize his work.

CM: Where was Turling’s shop?
HD: Turling was on Zeeland Road just outside of town.

CM: Did he have a specialty?

HD: No, he just did all general sign work. He would letter trucks and "for sale" signs and the general run of the sign trade.

CM: How long was he in business?

HD: He was in business until he was ninety years old! He was a good old guy though. He went to the Ninth Street Church, too.

CM: That's the church that you went to?

HD: Yeah. But he worked alone all the time. I don't even think he had a helper. He did his own helper work.

CM: What kind of city ordinances have there been through the years that you had to comply with in your work?

HD: Well, we had rental bulletins, the big ones 10 x 50 and 10 x 25 and so forth, and our biggest blow was when Lady Bird Johnson came along with a law about no signs by the Beautification Project or something, unless it was on commercial property, and it had to be a certain distance from schools and houses and everything else. That was kind of a headache. Later you had to have your signs licensed with a license number on them, but I think that was more township than state.

CM: What about city ordinances?

HD: Well, they had ordinances as far as size goes. You couldn't be over a certain size and they had to have a certain clearance from the sidewalk, I think it was 10 feet up. They had a whole list of things that you had to comply with.
CM: They weren't hard to deal with, the ordinances? How did you feel about them?

HD: Well, we always got along good with the city; we always complied with the ordinances.

CM: You've mentioned to me some changes that your company went through the years: change in location and the fact that you and your partners bought the business, were there many other changes through the years?

HD: I don't think so. The type of business always stayed the same. We did go into the neon part of it and electric signs. My brother, Milt, and I were all commercial sign painters so we didn't pay much attention to the electrical end of it, although they always came to us when they wanted sketches for selling a new sign. Otherwise, we didn't have much to do with the electrical part.

CM: Did your customer base stay local here in the Holland area?

HD: Yeah. I remember we had one contract with Swift Ice Cream Company to paint valences on the windows. We did quite a few around Grand Rapids and a couple in Fennville and other little burgs around there where the Swift Ice Cream would go into a store and start selling there ice cream, and we would go put their valence on the front window.

CM: You say that you retired from the business in about 1975?

HD: Yes.

CM: What about your brother and Milt?

HD: Well, that was one of the reasons that we sold the business. My brother was seven years older than me and he wanted to retire. We had a chance to sell it, so we sold
it. Milt and I kept on working for the new owner, but my brother retired. Then when I got old enough to retire, then I retired when I was sixty-five.

CM: So you were sixty-five in 1975 then?

HD: I'll be eighty-five this year.

CM: Who was the buyer? Who bought your business?

HD: Pete Vandenbausch. He had a radio station WJBL for a long time. He worked for Zundervund, and Zundervund was the backer of buying the business. Anyway, we sold it to Pete and we kept on working for Pete. Then when we retired, they sold it to an outdoor advertising company in Kalamazoo.

CM: Pardon me, what was the name of the advertising company?

HD: In Kalamazoo? I don't even know. They had some posters around here and they bought the company for the road signs. That's what they did. They were quite valuable.

CM: So the business is no longer here in Holland....

HD: No. City Sign Company stopped when we all retired. I liked my work my whole life. It was never that I'd hate to go to work. Some of these guys that work in the factory, they hate to go to work in the morning and they can't wait until they retire. It was never that way with me, and I don't think it was ever that way with Milt or Gary either; they always liked their work, too.

CM: That's nice.

HD: Life is too short to spend your life doing something that you don't like.

CM: Well, to change the subject just a little bit here, what are some of the biggest changes
that you have noticed in Holland through the years in the past fifty years.

HD: Well, it sneaks up on you so gradually that it's hard to see unless you see a photograph of downtown from fifty years ago, and you think, "Yeah. I remember that." But you don't realize when it changed. But, the business owners changed all the time on Eighth Street, too. I remember when John Goode had a furniture store that's where the Art Museum is now on Eighth Street. Boter had a big clothing store across the street from that. The only one left, I think, is Lochers and Rutgers, they were there when I was a kid, and they're still there. They keep improving all the time, putting new fronts on and stuff.

CM: What do you feel about downtown now and the changes it's gone through?

HD: For the better.

CM: Is it still recognizable?

HD: Oh, I think so. The bank still has the same front on it as when they built it and that was years and years and years ago. Same thing with the other bank on the corner of Eighth and Central. They can't change the architecture of it and so it stays the same over the years. That little park across the street from the bank on Eighth Street, that had a drugstore on the corner there. They tore the drugstore down, I guess, and the store next to it, and now they have that little park on the corner of Eighth and Central across from where the five and ten cent store used to be. (tape ends) They tore so much down for parking lots like on Seventh Street. I remember when there was all houses along the north side of Seventh Street. Now, it's all parking lots and there was a big taxi cab garage on the corner and that's gone, and across the street was a
big service station and that’s gone. On the corner of River and Seventh there was a
gbig service station, and now it’s all parking lots. Everything is parking now. I guess
when they make a few hundred thousand cars every year they’ve got to go
somewhere.

CM: What do you think of Holland’s recent growth and all of the people moving here and
the growth in the industries around here?

HD: Well, there’s such a change in the background of the people that are living here now
than there were fifty years ago. Fifty years ago, everything was Dutch. Now, it’s
half Dutch, maybe it isn’t even half Dutch anymore, and the rest of it is other
nationalities. I don’t like it myself, but there isn’t anything you can do about it.
Everybody has to have a place to live and one person is as good as another. I believe
in equal rights no matter if your colored or white or brown or yellow. You wonder if
it’s a change for the good or not. I don’t know.

CM: Do you feel that Holland as a community still has the same identity or still has a good
identity with all the changes lately?

HD: I think it has a good identity, but I think that’s an overall statement. It’s so different
than it was years and years ago; but everything is that way. Progress changes things,
sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. There are instances when I think
it’s for the worse, but there are other instances where the change is for the better.
You know, Holland was a woodworking town, we had many furniture factories in
town and I can remember when one of the automobile companies wanted to start a
plant here, and all of the managers and owners of the furniture factories were so
against it that they wouldn't even sell them land to put the factory on because it was a metal working factory and the wages were much higher in that than they were in the wood working company, so they never did get in here. Not until just the last few years. Like Prince got started and he was a local man, and the same with the other seating company. They started up on their own from nothing and it isn't like a big cooperation moving in. So it was told to me.

CM: What qualities do you think Holland as a community has? How would you describe Holland today?

HD: Well, it's just that the last couple years it seems like crime has been coming in, but otherwise I think that you can't find a better place to bring up a family.

CM: What was it like for you raising your children here?

HD: I don't want to pat myself on the back, but I think we did a pretty good job raising the kids. Our oldest daughter is a missionary in Madagascar. Our other daughter is a real good worker in church work in St. Joe. Our son Bob is the manager of a plant in Missouri. My son Jack is an Electrician, and Gary is an employee at Haworth and he's been there about twenty years or so. They all turned out alright.

CM: As a parent you didn't have to worry about them?

HD: Oh, you always worry about them. Once they left the house, that was it for us. When they got married they were on their own. We never stuck our nose in their business, and they made their own decisions. If they came to us and asked for our opinion then we gave it to them, but we never tried to push them.

CM: Earlier, you told me that your children went to Holland Christian High School? What
was it like for them to go there?

HD: I don’t know. They got a good education. I think that I realized that they were going there more than they did because I had to pay the tuition. (laughs) I guess the tuition was pretty cheap at that time compared to now, but we managed to get them through.

CM: What are some of the organizations in which you’ve been involved over the past few years? You mentioned the American Legion Band....

HD: Yeah. That was about the only thing I was involved in except for church. I’ve been a deacon and an elder at church, but otherwise, like the Chamber of Commerce or the Rotary, I was never into anything like that.

CM: Are you still active in the Band?

HD: No. I got too involved in church work and we had three or four kids and I just didn’t have time for it anymore.

CM: Do you still go to the concerts?

HD: Once in a while.

CM: When did you change churches from Ninth Street to where you go now, Montello Park Christian Reformed Church?

HD: Yeah, in 1947. We bought a house over on Twenty-first Street over here and when catechism started we switched to this one.

CM: So Montello Park is the one where you’ve been very active.

HD: Yes, that’s where I was active, too.

CM: Well, thank you so much for your time.
Initial Contact Form

Name: Herman (Harm) De Woerd

Date of birth: 11/20/11  
Place of birth: Holland

Mother's name (include maiden name): Jennie (De Woerd)

Father's name: Henry

Siblings' names (include birthdates if known):

Spouse's name (include wife's maiden name):

Date of marriage: 3/25/37  
Place of marriage: Grand Rapids, MI

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

Date of death:  
Place of death and burial: 

Religion and church membership: 

Schooling and/or other training: High School

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

115 E. 27th
512 W. 21st
639 W. 27th

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

Sign Painter - City Sign Co. - Holland
Starting Salary - $25, per week

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

American Legion Band - 1930 to 1950

Other general information:
Mr. Herm De Weerd passed away on December 3, 1997.