

Miss Ball, interviewed May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1974

B: Miss Ball                    A: Bill ?

R: Ron Kuiper                C: ?

R: ...Street Railway Company, the dummy line...going to the lake.

B: Yeah, they used to have a dummy going to the lake, they called it.

R: Yeah. Pictures are in there. Of the dummy.

B: Um-hum.

C: Just see if she recognized some of the pictures.

R: Now, here's one I especially like. This is a band at the old pavilion down there at Highland Park, you see.

B: Oh, yeah.

A: With the moustaches...

C: Do you remember Highland Park?

B: Yes, I used to go there with my mother.

C: Did you really?

B: Oh, isn't that something?

C: Ummm.

B: Ummm. Plug hats. (laughs)

C: Yeah, yeah, look at that, yeah. What kind of hats are those?

B: My father had an uncle that he was professor in the seminary in Holland and when he preached in Grand Haven, my, his mother was, was, let me see, my Grandma Ball was his sister, but he always stayed with us, you know, because my grandma was getting old. And my father had a grocery store. He would jump in the grocery wagon and go down to the Pere Marquette and meet that man and then bring him to our house and he would step out, I can just see him step out, off the grocery wagon (laughing), my father couldn't go home and change his clothes, you know, just to go and get him and then he'd have a plug hat on and...

R: You know that picture?

B: ...and a linen duster and a cane. He was, he was a smart man. He was a teacher in the seminary.

C: This is the old dummy line near Grand Haven, Michigan...

B: Yes.

C: Oh, do you remember that?

B: Oh, I used to ride on that dummy. Um-hum.

C: Oh, did you?

B: Yes.

C: Where is that located, out by the beach?

B: Yes. That's the old pavilion.

C: Oh, yeah?

B: Yes.

R: There are some of the, the open cars. Both the opened and the closed.

B: Yes.

R: Now, that's, that's before it was electrified.

B: Oh, yes.

R: Do you remember that, when it was pulled by a steam engine?

B: Um, I don't, no, I don't remember that.

R: Now, that was, that's got to be 1902.

A: Do you remember him?

B: No.

A: That's Stephen, uh, Monroe.

B: Oh, Stephen Monroe, um-hum.

A: That's Steve...

B: That name is familiar.

A: He's the one who, uh...

B: Oh, you're getting a, his pictures together for yourself?

A: Well, for a book if we, if we can get one together.

B: Oh, yes.

A: Is that, is that Dr. Monroe?

R: That's Dr. Monroe.

A: Remember Dr. Monroe, the, uh...

B: I've heard of him, but I never knew him.

R: I don't think, I think he was gone by the time you...now, there's a very nice picture of the, uh...the old hotel.

B: Yes.

R: And the dummy line tracks.

B: That's right.

R: When there was no road there.

B: Yes.

C: That's the resort beach and \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, my goodness, that was beautiful then too, wasn't it?

B: Yes.

C: Look at all the trees and everything.

B: The grocery men used to have their picnics way back in Lover's Lane. There was, back of the Boyden cottage there was a walk and, that would take you to the picnic grounds. And that's where and I had a picture taken of the first grocery men's picnic, but I've lost it somewhere. I don't know what became of it.

C: Um-hum.

B: So, I don't have any pictures now. Like that.

A: Now, that's when they still had the steam engine. I think that ran only until 1902.

B: Oh, yes.

A: And then they made it electric. And you probably remember more about the electric...

B: No, I don't.

R: Do you remember the steam engine?

B: No. No, I never saw that. No.

R: But the cars?

B: Um-hum.

C: You remember the cars?

B: Yes.

R: The open, the open cars.

B: Oh, yeah, I remember that. Uh-huh. Yep.

C: What fun. That must have been fun.

A: These are taken from the top of Five Mile Hill, I think.

B: Oh, yes.

A: Long time ago.

C: Pretty.

B: Um-hum.

C: Yeah, that's beautiful.

R: Did you ever spend any time at the Spring Lake Hotel?

B: No. I passed it when we used to take the boat to Fruitport, you know, and then they would stop there.

R: I see. To the Fruitport pavilion?

B: Oh, yes, we had our Sunday School picnics there often. We'd go on a scow, a big scow. A tug would take us there, you know, for the Sunday School picnic.

A: Is that Grand Haven or is that Albion?

R: I don't know what that picture is.

B: Are you from the Grand Valley College?

A: I am, yes.

R: He is.

B: Oh, you are.

A: I teach there.

B: Well, there's a man bought that house now from Grand Valley.

A: Yeah, Ron Efron, I think his name is.

B: I, I, he was spading in the backyard, so I went to talk to him.

A: Ron teaches at Agnew School, uh, out...

B: The girl, the lady?

A: Ron, here...

B: Oh.

A: ...teaches at Agnew School.

B: Oh, I see.

C: Agnew.

A: His, him name was in the paper tonight. There was an article about his students writing letters to, uh, Germany.

B: I see. Well, I have no pictures. The only one picture I have is from when my father had a grocery store and they had everything outside, you know. But I'm not on the picture...

C: That's across the street from Steketee's.

B: Yes.

A: Well, we care more about the pictures that you have in your mind that you can tell us about.

B: Yes (laughs).

C: Well, uh...

A: The way things used to be.

C: She was just telling Bonnie and I, uh, about her grandparents, how they came here.

B: Yes.

C: On a sailing vessel.

B: Um-hum. Took 52 days..

C: What year was that?

B: ...you crossed the ocean and there must have been, I forget how many on, on the, on the vessel. They were threatened all the time with storms. They landed in New York.

C: What year was...

B: And then...

C: What year...

B: '48, my grandparents...

C: 1848?

B: Uh-huh. And they, and they, um, let me see, I don't know if they came here, right here to live. I don't know, but my father was born in '52.

C: 1852?

B: Um-hum. And it, and 14 families, uh, they must have been, uh, those that came over, across on the boat and they banded together. They wanted a place of worship. They were all wonderful Christian people, I guess. And like they had in the Netherlands. So, they, either bought it or rented, a couple canoes from the Indians and they picked up the waste lumber that the mills threw out. And with that waste lumber, they built a little slab church. It was 12 foot by 24. Got a picture of it in the history and of it. They gave us a history because my father was in the consistory 20 years there and quite a figure in the church, you know, always just so interested.

A: What church was that?

B: First Reformed downtown here.

A: First Reformed?

B: Uh-huh.

(static)

B: But I don't know where the roots of that church was, I'd have to look it up in our history, you know. I wouldn't, I wouldn't let, let that history go out of the house because you know how things come back sometimes (laughing).

A: Your father was born in 1852?

B: In, yeah, and he was baptized in the little slab church. And they were, my, my grandma, they were wonderful Christian people, you know, all for the Lord. And my father too, he, he was a wonderful man. Wonderful man. He couldn't be any better. (laughs).

A: And was he born in this house, do you think?

B: No, round the corner.

A: Oh.

C: No, no, your father was born here.

B: Oh, yeah, I guess...

A: In this house?

B: Yeah.

A: In 1852.

C: Yes.

R: Wow.

A: This is an old house then.

B: Yes.

C: When she was a little girl, see, she lived around the corner, but she would come here to visit her grandma, grandmother and grandfather.

B: Yes.

C: See?

B: And when my sister, I had a sister older, she's gone to be with the Lord now, 15 years. And, uh, when she was born, my father, I heard him tell it and she was three days old. He took her through the yard there to show her to his mother. Um-hum.

C: Yeah, right over the fence there.

A: Did your grandfather come straight here or did he go to Holland, Michigan first?

B: No, I guess they came to Grand Haven.

A: Cause 1848, that's only one year after the first wave of Dutch immigrants went to Holland.

B: Uh-huh. Well...

A: When Van Raelty (?)...

B: It was '48 that, uh, that they came.

A: Sure of that?

B: Um-hum. That's right. Well, I can't stand up very well and I'm not well. I have, the blood doesn't reach the top of my head, now, it's in my feet and legs, you know. The circulation. And I'm, I'm 89 years old.

A: Wouldn't you like to just sit down and talk for a little while, uh, we...

C: That would be really fun, Kitty.

B: No, I, I want to go home and rest now.

C: She's been out all afternoon.

B: Yeah. No, I couldn't, I can't visit very long cause it affects my head. Well, nice to meet you anyway.

A: Okay, it's nice talking to you and you too.

B: Well, I hope you can write a history someday (laughs). Is that your aim to...

A: Yeah, we're working on it.

C: There's, uh, one of the men in the Christian Haven Home that loves to talk about this and if I were you, I'd go see him. His name is Mart Riving. He loves to talk about the olden days.

A: Oh.

C: He's, uh...

A: Riving? R...

C: Mart Riving. You know where the Christian Haven Home is?

A: Yeah.

C: You do?

A: Yeah. We've been there to talk to, uh (indecipherable)

C: (indecipherable) He's in the room next to Pitchey.

A: Oh.

R: Oh, man.

C: And his name is Mart Riving. And he loves to talk about the old days. He could keep...

(Skip)

B: ...but when I was, when my sister and I got a little older so that we could understand, we, we couldn't understand Dutch, because they never spoke Dutch. And, so, uh, my mother had a sister going to the



Second Reformed, so, that's how we went there, you know. And shortly after, it was all English there, so, we might have stayed, you know.

A: Here's a man with a nice beard. That's Nelson R. Howlett.

B: Oh, yes.

A: He was a lumberman here.

B: Well, the building that my father owned, was a Howlett building.

A: Oh.

B: And he bought that, that store...

C: From, from Howlett?

B: Uh-huh.

C: Oh, yeah?

B: Mr. Howlett.

C: And O'Day (?)?

B: Are those your own pictures?

A: No, they belong, this lady that we met...

(Skip)

A: ...second wife's name was Baker, before she married him.

B: Oh, yes.

A: Yeah.

B: There was a Baker that was a lumberman here. Had the, there's a lumberyard there now. I forget who...

A: Oh, right down on Pennoyer, you mean.

B: Yes.

C: Um-hum.

B: That was originally the Baker lumberyard.

A: Is that relation to that Baker, that, oh.

B: I don't know that, no.

A: Cause I think that this Baker was probably a widow of...

B: Yes.

A: ...of a lumberman. The Baker that...

R: That could be Nelson R. Howlett married his second wife.

B: Well, I hope you can get a nice history and...

(End of tape)