

## CONTINUUM HISTORY AND RESEARCH: TRANSCRIPTION

**INTERVIEWEE:** Irene Bultman Tyhuis, Gerrit Tyhuis

**SUBJECT:** Bultman Maternity Home

**NUMBER OF TAPES:** 1

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** January 17, 2000

**INTERVIEW NO.** 2

**LOCATION:** Tyhuis home, 28997 S. R. 20, Oak Harbor, 98277  
360-675-3107

**INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AND TRANSCRIBED BY:**

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Irene Bultman Tyhuis was the daughter of Audrey Bultman who operated the Bultman Maternity Home in Oak Harbor from the mid-1930s through the early 1950s. Irene refers to the three different sites of the Bultman Maternity Home.

**SIDE A**

**I:** Irene Bultman Tyhuis

**G:** Gerrit Tyhuis

**T:** Theresa Trebon

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**T:** So your folks emigrated from **Holland** to Canada?

**G:** Yes. Homesteaded there.

**T:** What part of Canada?

**G:** Southern Alberta. Dust bowl situation you might say. They moved out of there in [19]24. Then they went to another little town in Alberta for about three years and then we came down here. They had friends that lived here [On Whidbey Island].

**T:** When did they come from in Holland?

**G:** 1910.

**T:** My grandpa came from Holland in 1905 and settled in South Dakota. But his brother came on to Whidbey Island and bought some land right up the road. But he died in the 50s and they sold it for taxes. Then my parents moved out here two years later.

**G:** What was the name?

**T:** Van Goor. Geert or George Van Goor. And it was right on the corner of Haga Road. Where that little ugly trailer court was.

**G:** Yes.

**I:** Pete Kinney bought all that.

**G:** He never developed the trailer court, somebody else did.

**T:** So your folks came here and bought this place. How many acres?

**G:** Sixty.

**T:** And your dad farmed it?

**G:** Oh yes. We farmed it, and we [Geert and Irene] did.

**T:** Did you ever find any **arrowheads**?

**G:** Yes.

**I:** In the garden.

**G:** But you know what, I've lost them all too.

**T:** I've talked to a lot of people that have said that.

**G:** Goll darn that burns me up. We had an older garage there and they were in there since I was a little kid and then we built a new garage and of course, you had to move the stuff out the old one. I moved them somewhere and I've never been able to find them. I've got one, dandy, but Bob, our youngest boy, picked that up maybe ten years ago. Right out of the garden. That's where most of them came

from, right in that area. It's kind of a low swale. I imagine they hunted ducks or something there, or deer. But I can't find them.

**T:** Darn. They're out there.

**I:** They're in a coffee can.

**G:** Well, or a tobacco can.

**T:** Someday you'll find them.

**G:** I hope so.

**T:** Well, did you ever hear, where the **Waterloo** area is,

**G:** Yes.

**T:** Did you ever know where the old **Enos** house, or the **Beam** farm was?

**G:** Was that on the Waterloo tract?

**T:** They named it. This is back in the 1860s. Almira Beam was Isaac Ebey's niece and she owned all of that.

**G:** I've heard tell, that at the turn of the century, and even a little later, there were a lot of **Chinese** on that farm.

**T:** On the Waterloo farm?

**G:** Yes. As well as in San de Fuca.

[Gerrit tells me his sister used to live on the Deighton Farm just south of them, and east of Hastie Lake.]

**T:** What was her last name?

**G:** Heller. That place, I think there's two houses that burned on that particular place.

**T:** Was one of them the Gast house?<sup>1</sup>

**G:** Yes. Gee whiz? Where do you live? Skagit? I tell you, we don't run across

<sup>1</sup> Gast Family: four children and father died in fire: See *Farm Bureau News* 5-22-1924

anybody who knows much Whidbey Island history. [Laughs.]

**T:** Well... I may not know anything else but I do know that. [Laughter]

**G:** Yes. That was terrible. The family burnt, except the missus. That was Mrs. Minzinga, she was Mrs. Gast. She remarried [after the fire].

**T:** What was her name?

**G:** Minzinga. See those Gasts, they homesteaded in the same place that my folks did, in Alberta. But they moved down here prior to my folks. Probably between 24 and 27 because of the drought situation.

**I:** Were they up there when your folks lived on the prairie too?

**G:** Oh yes. They homesteaded up there. Then they were down here and just before we came. I imagine that fire happened in 26 or thereabouts. Because I remember they heard about it when they were still up there [in Alberta.]

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**T:** So where did you guys meet?

**I:** Right here.

**G:** I kind of raised her before they'd let me marry her. [Laughter.]

**I:** I was born just down the road here.

**T:** So where your mom had the **maternity home**?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** I saw the barn. Nice barn. I like barns.<sup>2</sup>

**I:** The day that I was born, Dad had a crew to lay that foundation and he had to send them home and he wasn't very happy so it was poured the next day.

**T:** [Laughs.] Well, I'm glad he sent them home for your poor mom's sake.

<sup>2</sup> Theresa is referring to the barn that still stands on what was once the Bultman farm and the site of the first Bultman maternity home, directly west of S. W. Eagle Vista Avenue, outside the south end of Oak Harbor.

I: Here's that house. Look at how old it is.

T: Wow. This is the **Bultman Maternity Home**?

I: That's the first one.

T: Now where was this [house] in relation to the barn?

I: Okay, where the house is now, the block house, a little bit south of that.

T: Black house?

I: Block. Or the green one, the house that's on there now. Maybe back as far as the house is now.

G: Not quite.

I: I think they kind of lived in the old house and built that.

T: So your mom, her maiden name again was Kingma?<sup>3</sup>

I: Kingma.

T: Was this her parent's house?

I: No, no.

G: No, your folks bought that I guess when they got married.

I: I guess so.

G: I don't think they ever lived anywhere else prior to that.

I: I don't think so. No, I think they come right there.

T: So is that your folks [in that picture.]?

I: Yes, and my older sister and the dog. And I think there's pups on there. That was before I was even there. But that's a good picture of that house. We never painted

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<sup>3</sup> For information on Audrey Bultman R. N., see her entry on p. 271 of *A Common Need* under the Nurses category.

it. Then the Depression come.

**T:** It's a huge house.

**I:** Yes, it really was pretty big.

**T:** Do you know who your folks bought it from?

**I:** No I don't.

**T:** I'm just curious because it looks like an old structure.

**I:** And that old garage... there's a garage that's facing the road. That was there, that's original. And it's still there.

**G:** That and the barn. The rest of those Quonset huts and all that junk that's around there was all...

**T:** Added in.

**G:** Yes. That's changed hands several times.

**I:** Boy, I was looking and looking and I found that picture and I thought that's a good one of that house. Mom really had [the maternity business] in **three different** homes.

**T:** Okay. So this was the first?<sup>4</sup>

**I:** Yes.

**T:** And she actually did deliveries in here?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** And then the second one...

**I:** You know, I don't have a picture of that but it's still there. On Fort Nugent Road.

**G:** It's a real neat house yet.

**I:** Yes it is. And there's the power station, just right up the road.

<sup>4</sup> West side of S. R. 20, south of Haga Rd. Directly across the street from S. W. Eagle Vista Avenue.

- T:** Okay. So if we're talking Fort Nugent Road. [Theresa starts to draw a map.]
- G:** Here I'll draw you a map.
- T:** Draw me a map! That's what we need. [Laughs.]
- I:** And the house, it's a cream colored and a two story. And we moved in there for just maybe a couple years and then Mom got, she had to be drafted. And I just had a little sister, she wasn't even a year old yet, and she wouldn't get to come home.
- T:** She wouldn't get to come home if she...?
- I:** If she was on the base. She'd have to stay over so many days, all the time, 24 hours. And she didn't like that so we moved then to Bellingham and she nursed there for a while. Then we came back [to Whidbey] again.
- G:** There's a Puget Power substation right here and just the next place would be that house.
- I:** It's just maybe a ½ mile up that road... maybe not even a quarter of a mile.
- G:** Right after the turn. This is the highway, and Swantown Road goes that way. And this is Fort Nugent and it runs all the way to West Beach.
- T:** So it's on the left side of the road.
- G:** Yes. That substation is right after you make that turn. It's a big white, and it's a nice looking house.<sup>5</sup>
- T:** [Photo of third maternity home.] And she did deliveries here too then?
- I:** Yes she did, but we weren't there very long. And then this was the third one. It's cement. You wouldn't recognize the house to this day. They've changed it so bad.
- T:** It's cement?
- I:** Yes, 15" All concrete. The man who built it poured every bit of it.

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<sup>5</sup> The second home was located at 1239 Fort Nugent Road. The third maternity home was located at 438 O'Leary, Oak Harbor. For photos and information on these maternity homes, see p. 115-116 of *A Common Need*.

**T:** Where is this now?

**G:** Well, they changed all the streets.

**T:** Is it in Oak Harbor.

**I:** When you go up Midway.

[Gerrit draws another map!]

**G:** There's a carwash there, that's the street. A great big log building [across the street] and there's a little restaurant.

**I:** Excalibur. It's kind of a short street and then you have to either make either a right or a left. And that house is sitting right there and they got big decks out on it now and they changed the front. The front is on this side now and it's facing the lower part of the road. The driveway or road, used to just come around like that. We owned to the road. We had a greenhouse, it was a \_\_\_\_ greenhouse and my folks took it over when we moved back in 45.

There used to be a big greenhouse there and the folks had how many acres? But that house was on there when they bought it. It was the Vavarnses [sp?] that built that. So the folks had it stuccoed. This isn't even stuccoed, we had just got there I think and we had this snowstorm.

**T:** So this is after WWII then?

**I:** Yes. 45 we moved in.

**T:** And so at this point your mom had how many kids?

**I:** Four girls.

**T:** And then your dad was still living?

**I:** Yes. Mom died in [19]61.

**T:** And you mentioned she had cancer?

**I:** Yes she did. And she delivered babies until maybe two years before, before she really got too sick to do it.

**T:** Was she an R. N.?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** Where did she get her training?

**I:** At **Providence Hospital** in Everett.

**T:** Those nuns. They trained a lot of people.

**I:** They sure did.

**T:** And do you know what year she was born?

**G:** [18]98 she was born.

**T:** So then she would've been getting her training then around 1918, 1920?

**G:** I'd imagine.

**I:** I'd say that. She emigrated, she come from Holland in 1911.

**T:** The Kingma family.

**I:** But they moved to the prairie, near where, up in Canada. They were in Granham. A little town, Fort McCloud, Garrett, somewhere in there, east of Fort McCloud. They were only there a couple years and my grandpa was kind of a painter and he had sunstroke. So he had to get out of there. The church had classes and all of these churches get together. And it was here on the island, and he liked it, so they just moved here.

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[Gerritt finishes up the map of the 3rd Bultman Maternity Home located just east of N. E. 4th and O'Leary streets in Oak Harbor.]

**I:** Right where the road forks.

**G:** Yes. When you stop here, and that's a stop, you're looking right at it, it's just a little to the right.

**T:** Okay. So your grandpa, when they came here, where did they settle on the island?

- I:** Right at the top of the hill at Marketown. Where you start to go down the hill to the Main Gate [of the Navy base.]
- T:** Okay. So they were at the top of Clover Valley there.
- G:** Right on the hill.
- I:** That whole corner on the top of the hill.
- T:** I've got an old map with his farm on it.
- I:** Okay. The house is out at the Outlying Field in Coupeville. And that was Grandma and Grandpa's [Kingma's] house. And he had twenty acres maybe. Just right at the whole corner. Ohhh. That hurt his feelings when the Navy come in and took that. He was a gardener. He was old then, and he had a garden and that was all garden area from the road to that house. And he had it so neat. And the dozer would come in there. And he'd hold bushes aside so the dozer wouldn't push it all in.
- T:** That must have been so hard for all of those people.
- I:** They were ousted in a real big hurry.
- T:** Wow. So did they took his place or just his...?
- I:** No the whole thing. The whole place. He had to move into town. They were all uprooted. I think they had to move in less than a month. Find a place, and buy it. War time.
- T:** Well. It looked like it was a beautiful spot.
- I:** Oh yes.
- G:** You looked right down over the valley there.
- I:** It was really a nice place, yes.

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- T:** So, what do you remember about your mom delivering babies? I mean, you grew up with this.
- I:** Yes we did. Well, we weren't allowed to do too much until, Dorothy and I, my

older sister, we were older when we moved into the last house. I was fifteen when we moved back [from Bellingham]. And Dorothy was seventeen. If she got real busy, because she was quite busy there, then we might have to... well, we always had to help with the food.

**G:** Tray girls.

**I:** [Laughs.] The tray girls, and once and a while, if it was an emergency, you'd hand out some towels or something, hot water, and things like that for mom. No, she took care of an awful lot. And the babies... if somebody really needed a bad change or something before she could get to it, we'd have to do it. But she really did it mostly herself. Well, it was better that she did it. But we kind of stuck our hand in there. Now my younger sister, that was after we were married, she said, "I had to help Mom once and a while too." Get stuff that she needed if the baby was coming before the doctor was even there and she couldn't leave the patient, so my younger sisters would help her a little more.

**G:** In those days you could do that you know.

**T:** Things have changed.

**I:** Oh my they've changed.

**G:** She delivered babies until... but she could see the handwriting on the wall. People would go to Mount Vernon or Anacortes Hospital rather than her place because they had equipment in case of an emergency and that type of thing.

**I:** Although she kept really pretty busy.

**G:** Oh yes, but I mean, she would mention that, she could see where that was...

**I:** But she would have a lot of **Navy**, of course, there was no hospital here.

**T:** So there wasn't even a facility for the Navy wives?

**I:** Not for a while, no, not at first. When we first came back to this [third] place.

**T:** She delivered then if the doctor couldn't make it.

**I:** If she couldn't hold it back yes, and that it was safe, yes, then she'd have to deliver it. I think she delivered two of our first two that way.

**G:** Here's the first one. [Gerrit shows a photo of Irene in bed with a new baby at the Bultman Maternity home.]<sup>6</sup>

**T:** Which one's you?

**I:** This is my sister.

**T:** You're kidding.

**I:** We were there at the same town. Dorothy was four days before mine. But then you had to stay ten days, or six days. The first was ten days. And those ladies.. oh... [laughs]. They weren't very... [laughs.]

**T:** The truth comes out.

**I:** [Laughing] Well, we'd watch, sometimes if the door was open, in that old, old [first] house, because they were really in this room [the room just behind the front porch]. And that was a big bedroom.

**T:** So they delivered, the whole nine yards in the same room type of thing?

**I:** Yes. Then she'd try to get those ladies up after the ninth day. [Laughs.] And they'd sit there and then she'd try and stand them up and oh! They'd keel over you know. They'd faint.

**T:** Oh I'll bet. After laying in bed that long.

**I:** Yes. All that time.

**G:** And they didn't get them up either.

**I:** No!

**T:** They just hung out the whole time?

**I:** Yes. You just laid there. And now, it's so much better for you to get up right away. I know Mom would have to wrap their stomach in those belly bands.

**T:** What for? What was the purpose of that?

**I:** I don't know. Maybe to get them back in shape, I don't know. But I remember

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<sup>6</sup> This photo is on page 192 of *A Common Need*.

we'd wash. We'd have to do a lot of washing. And we'd have to wash all those belly bands.

**T:** They were just like long strips of cloth?

**I:** Long strips of cloth. And they just wrapped around the stomach. Belly bands. That's what we called them?

**T:** How did you deal with all that laundry?

**I:** You washed!

**G:** Washed continually almost. And she had a mangle because there was a lot of sheets and bedding and it had to be ironed.

**T:** I'm so glad we don't have to do that anymore.

**I:** And you know, how much better what they do with the patients now, that you get them up right away. Oh man, you don't have a chance to faint.

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**T:** Did they have cribs for the babies?

**I:** Yes, Mom had little, well, we still have one. It's a little clear plastic that the little kids, if they came to see their little brother or sister, they could see it from out of the side. A little basket type thing. Clear plastic. Those were the last ones she had. Those were kind of nice. Otherwise she just had a regular, little wicker basket. We'd line them up. [Laughs.] Six maybe in a row.

**G:** Oh they'd have em right in the living room. When I was courting you I remember, they'd have them in there.

**T:** [Laughs.] I can't even imagine.

**I:** Yes, well, all of a sudden then, you'd get a whole bunch of them. The kitchen and the bedrooms were ours.

**T:** That was about it. Did you ever get tired of that?

**I:** You know, Mom always said, they're couldn't be a happier thing than a baby. It was always...

- G:** Kind of upbeat.
- I:** It was upbeat. Everybody was happy with a baby.
- G:** And she was fortunate. She was in that business for years and years and never lost one did they?
- I:** One. Vandervoot. Born, strangled, with the cord.
- T:** And how about the moms. Did she ever loose a mom?
- I:** No. She's taken care of some who were quite ill afterwards. I know one come from the south end, maybe she just needed a nurse, I don't know. But oh man, we had to nurse her along.
- G:** Are you familiar with the name Eerkes?
- T:** Yes.
- G:** Well, Hermy Eerkes, he taught school here, he was born here, and he retired about four or five years ago, he was the first baby they had, in that old house.<sup>7</sup>
- T:** He was the first one eh?
- I:** Oh about 4 or 5 years. That was the Eerkes that was right at the Seaplane Base, Main Gate. That was their farm. Eerkes Hill.
- G:** All that housing up there was all part of their farm.
- T:** So we're talking early 1930s?
- I:** I'm not sure, middle thirties.
- T:** Do you know who the last was?
- I:** It was Vanderstoep I think.
- G:** One of Ed's?
- I:** Yes. Mom was getting pretty bad then. You know, cancer, they didn't do a lot for

<sup>7</sup> See page 114 of *A Common Need* and footnote 20 on page 126.

it then. And she had colon cancer. It was very hard. She was a big lady. That's the only picture I could get of her in a uniform. That was in Bellingham.

**T:** "Whatcom County Hospital." She's got a sweet smile. So what did your dad do while she was doing all of this?

**G:** In Bellingham he worked for a feed company.

**I:** And in Oak Harbor he worked for the lumber company, and on that place he was farming. He had a threshing machine and did custom work.

**T:** Now, was he from here?

**I:** Well, he was here at the turn of the century. He was born in Michigan in 1894.

**T:** Was he Dutch too?

**I:** His folks, yeah, way back though. His dad was born in the United States too.

## **END OF SIDE A**

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## **SIDE B**

[As this side starts, Irene is describing how her mother would transport new mothers to the hospital in times of emergency.]

**000**

**I:** Went with her to the hospital.

**G:** Stick them in the car and you take off.

**I:** That's how you went.

**T:** Did she have a hospital that she would go to?

**I:** Well, then they were in Everett.

**G:** I think that was the doctor's discretion.

**I:** That was Dr. **Carskadden**.

- G:** I mean, it was his call where they took her.
- T:** So he would be the one to deliver the babies usually?
- I:** Yes. Well, then it was Dr. **Chaffee** later on. But Dr. Carskadden was here in town. And Dr. **Bishop**.
- T:** So did Bishop come and deliver too out here?
- I:** Oh yes.
- T:** Boy, I don't know how that guy did it.
- I:** I know, wasn't he a busy man!
- T:** Plus he had such a big family himself.
- I:** Didn't he though.
- T:** So it sounds like she liked what she did.
- I:** She sure did. I think it was her first love, that kind of **nursing**.
- T:** Did she ever take care of any old people? Because that one that you supplied the name for, Arnew... [she did.]
- G:** Did you find any more dope on that?
- [We talk about Arnew Maternity Clinic in Oak Harbor.]
- G:** Did you find out where it was?
- T:** I did.<sup>8</sup>

[Tape is momentarily shut off. As it resumes, Theresa has asked Irene and Gerritt if they knew anything about the Kruick Maternity Home.]<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> For more information on the Arnew Hospital, see its listings on p. 215 of *A Common Need*, under category of Hospitals-Whidbey Island Home Hospitals.

<sup>9</sup> For more information on the Kruick Maternity Home see its listings on p. 215 of *A Common Need*, under category of Hospitals-Whidbey Island Home Hospitals.

**T:** That was your aunt? You're kidding. So Mrs. [Kruick].. what was her first name?

**I:** Jessie.

**G:** **Jessie Kruick.**

**T:** And was she your mother's sister?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** Trained as a nurse?

**I:** No, strictly midwife.

**T:** So she had some training though?

**I:** I don't know.

**G:** She must have had something. She was not a registered nurse.

**I:** Maureen Balda didn't either.

**T:** Who didn't?

**I:** **Maureen Balda.**

**T:** And did she deliver babies?

**I:** Yes, she did, for a little while, right next to this house.

**T:** The first house.

**I:** Yes.

**T:** She delivered them out of her home?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** Okay.

**I:** That was... not a lot of them but I remember we were living there and there was babies there too. No, Aunt Jessie didn't have, as far as I know, training.

**T:** Was she your mom's older or younger sister?

**I:** Right next to her. Mom was the oldest girl of nine, one brother older. And then it was Aunt Jessie.

**T:** First birth that I was able to find track of was 1936 for the Bultman home but there was probably earlier, I just didn't catch them. And the first Kruick, I have twin boys born at the Kruick Maternity Home in 1940. Where was that located?

**I:** Well, you know where Bartleson the funeral director is?

**G:** Burleigh Funeral Home. Just south of that.

**I:** Her [Jessie Kruick's] daughter lives in town.

**T:** Who's that?

**I:** Kay Brady.

**T:** So your cousin?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** So she must have gotten the idea from your mom?

**I:** Could be.

[Gerritt draws a map of where the Kruick Maternity Home was.]

**G:** There's a real estate office,

**I:** Right across from Burleigh.

**G:** And then there's an apartment.

**I:** And then is it Donovan's house? And then there's a little house and then it's Aunt Jessie's house. Stymsike lives there if we get his address we get his number.

**G:** That house wasn't big enough to do a whole lot was it?

**I:** No, I don't think so.

**T:** So she didn't do it very long?

**I:** I really can't remember how long she did it. Time goes, I was young.

[We talk about Holland. Theresa's grandfather and the Tyhuis' ancestors came from there.]

**T:** They were from Hoogeveen.

**I:** Where's that near?

**T:** It's up in the northern part...

**G:** Drenthe.

**T:** Yes.

**I:** Drenthe is an interesting place. We've been to Holland four times. Because he had a sister living there. I love it.

**T:** I can hardly wait to go.

[Tape is momentarily shut off. When it resumes the Ritchie Maternity Home is being discussed.]

**T:** The **Ritchie Hospital**. I only found one birth.

**I:** Oh, she had it for quite a while. Mrs. Ritchie.<sup>10</sup> Mom would even have to help her once and a while.

**T:** What was her first name?

**I:** Bill Ritchie was the husband's name. Us kids always knew her by Mrs. Ritchie.

**G:** Barb Ritchie was one of the daughters, well, she only had one daughter.

**I:** I could pick up the house, it's in town.

[Gerrit draws Theresa a map.]

<sup>10</sup> For information on the Ritchie Maternity Home Hospital, see its listings on p. 215 of *A Common Need*, under category of Hospitals-Whidbey Island Home Hospitals.

**T:** So Mrs. Ritchie was doing it for a while?

**I:** Yes, I'm pretty sure she did it for quite a while. I don't think as long as Mom. Mom stretched out.

**G:** My nephew was born in your Aunt Jessie's place.

**T:** Who was your nephew?

**G:** John Tyhuis. He was born in October, 1943.

**T:** In the Kruick one.

**G:** That was John.

[We discuss where things were located, and if there was any medical care on the north end of the island.]

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**I:** Hospitalization. My goodness. I think you stayed in the doctor's office as long as you could if you had a problem.

**G:** Well, if people got sick, you didn't even go to the doctor, you called the doctor and he'd come out.

**I:** Dad about died.

**G:** Well, he was never in a hospital was he?

**I:** No. He was right home. Dorothy was born. Mom was expecting me, that was in this house. He stayed right in the house.

**T:** What was wrong with him?

**I:** Double pneumonia.

**T:** Did she take care of him?

**I:** Yes.

**T:** No antibiotics.

- I:** No. Slow signs on the highway, oh it was terrible, yes.
- T:** What do you mean, “slow signs on the highway.”
- I:** They had them so the traffic wasn’t so... noise, I don’t know, what they had to do. That sounds so funny to me. Oh he was bad, he was bad.
- T:** So they actually put signs out on the highway to get traffic to slow down as they were coming by.
- G:** Like a quiet zone in a hospital you might say.<sup>11</sup>
- T:** Well, you should try that again. They’d slow down.
- G:** I’m thinking about putting a traffic light right out here. He [Irene’s father] told me one time that old Doc Carskadden needed some moonshine. That was during prohibition and you couldn’t buy any liquor. And old Doc said, “I’ll get you some. He said, “You need some.”
- T:** For medicinal?
- I:** For medicinal.
- T:** So Dr. Carskadden said he could get him some moonshine.
- G:** Right.
- I:** For when he was so sick, yes.
- G:** Of course that was kind of a common...
- I:** Medication.
- G:** Yes. In those days.
- I:** I think type of a pain killer. Knock him out a little bit.

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<sup>11</sup> The Bultman home was directly west of S. R. 20 on the south end of Oak Harbor, directly west of S. W. Eagle Vista Avenue so the road would have passed close to the house. The Tyhuis’ now live a few miles south of there, still on the west side of S. R. 20, and the intense traffic of that highway is a daily part of their life.

**T:** Sure. Maybe if you had high blood pressure... [Laughs.]  
Well, you guys have been a huge help.

**I:** Well, Mrs. Ritchie. I wouldn't know who in the world to ask about her.

**T:** There's probably nobody left is there.

**G:** No there isn't.

**I:** No, they moved away.

[Gerrit brings out a **tinted photograph** of the Tyhuis farm before the highway was put in. It is a large oval photograph in a wooden frame with "bubble glass".]

**T:** When was this [house] built?

**G:** 1908, 09.

**T:** This is such a treasure.

**I:** This is the front of the house. This is the road. And the road was facing this way because that's the way the little road was.

**G:** That they got into the place.

**I:** And that's why the house was crooked. And then when we added on, and they turned it.

**G:** They made the front more toward the road in other words.

**T:** So where would the highway be now?

**G:** Right along here about.

**T:** I sure would love to know what this area looked like a hundred years ago.

**I:** You see, the marsh was full of trees evidently.

**T:** That's a marsh back there?

**G:** Yes, it's all trees.

**T:** What's this building over here?

**G:** A little chicken house. I can remember that.

**T:** This is so neat.

[We begin talking about Waterloo Farm where Almira Wright Beam Enos, the niece of Isaac Ebey, lived. This site was just north of the Tyhuis farm.]

**T:** The Beam Farm [Known as “Waterloo” in the Ebey diaries.], the house had burnt down, but another house was built on the site of it. I just wondered if the Meador Farm... is that it? If you went straight from Monroe’s Landing Road, instead of turning left or right onto S. R. 20.<sup>12</sup>

[We look at a map.]

**I:** Oh, Meedemaw’s.

**T:** That’s the one I’m thinking of. I’m just wondering if [their place] is where her [Almyra Enos] place was.

**G:** Waterloo [farm] is here. The Meedemaws bordered Waterloo. This is the Waterloo Farm, right in here.

[We look at the map again. Gerrit traces the route of the old road from Oak Harbor to Coupeville.]

**G:** There was a bridge here, because this was the road. [The main highway down the island.) Right here in front of Alice’s house, where the driveway is...

**T:** Alice?

**G:** Hawkins. That was the old Zylstra place, that was probably the original Zylstra place. But then [the road] went up this way. Like our house was right here but it, [the road] continued on [east of our house] another 40 width you might say, up that way, a quarter mile or so, and then it went right straight toward Hastie Lake. Because when I was a kid you could ride a bike and everything down that old right-of-way.

**T:** So from Oak Harbor, where did it cut in through here?

**G:** I don’t know where it went here but anyhow it went this way. But anyhow here, if this was our house, it kept going, up into state land, and apparently it went all the way back to Penn Cove. I think the road came out on the Andy Kammenga place.

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<sup>12</sup> Research by Trebon has documented that Waterloo Farm was an important location in the history of the Ebey family on Whidbey Island. It is mentioned frequently in the diary entries of Winfield Scott Ebey, Mary Ebey Bozarth, and Almira Wright Beam Enos.

**T:** Well you talked about a ditch and there was a bridge here. Was this behind your house?

**G:** This is the old Zylstra place, we drained our marsh through here and we still do. Right about in here it's about 18' deep and it's an open ditch. There's that jog in there and there was a bridge there. That's according to old Ralph Zylstra. He lived there. See, originally him and his brother-in-law... this was two eighties or four forties. And Zylstra bought this and Henry Hoffman owned this. He owned these two forties.

Hoffman married a different wife, I think his other wife died, so he built that house up there...

**T:** Across the road?

**G:** Yes.

**I:** He built this one too.

**G:** He built this one first and then we bought it from Hoffman. And see, that's why we got 57 and a fraction [acres] on account of the road.

**I:** When was the highway here?

**G:** Well, Hank Zylstra said either [19]19 or 11, they built this road.

## **END OF SIDE B**

## **END OF INTERVIEW ONE WITH IRENE AND GERRIT TYHUIS**

@ Theresa L. Trebon, Continuum History and Research, 2-2000; Edited by Trebon August 2001