

Name: Dr. David Klein
Date of Interview: December 5, 2013
Interviewer: Karen Brewster

Brief Summary of Interview: Dr. Klein is talking about early childhood and up to high school. He also shares some stories of his time in the Navy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Today is December 5, 2013. And this is Karen Brewster and Dave Klein talking about his life. And when we left off last time, still in childhood. You want to talk a little bit more about how your childhood made you who you are today?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, that's a tough one, but it is -- and I guess for everyone, childhood is so important in shaping one's life, subsequent life, but for some of us maybe more important than others. In my case, I think it's very important because I feel that my parents, both my mother and father, influenced me. Both through their genes, but through the environment they created for me when I was a child. For the whole family and me, when I was young and responsive to that kind of influence. And so in the case of my mom, I mean, it was -- both parents were -- they loved nature. And my dad was more a generalist in that regard, and he was an ardent hunter and fisherman, but he also loved to be out. But his work -- his training was as a machinist and so he ended up with factory jobs. And frequently -- once it wasn't the Depression, he did quite well; he was in supervisory positions. But he used to advise my brother and I both, "You don't want to work in a factory. Find some other job." And I used to say I was influenced greatly by my grandfather's farm. And I'd say, "Well, I'm going to be a farmer when I grow up," when people asked me what I wanted to be. My brother, two years older, he was more inclined toward -- fascination with -- maybe got the genes from his dad, but in mechanical things. And he was good in math, and he was interested in automobiles and - - more like young guys were a little bit later in post-war years when the automobile -- love for automobiles swept the nation. But at any rate, my father -- my mother used to do nature walks on a Sunday afternoon. We'd have a big Sunday dinner and then mostly the men would sit around smoking a cigar and talking and relaxing after eating a big dinner. And us kids were usually eager to go. And my mom wanted to get out of the house. And she'd love to be out at different times of the year and see what things are like. And wildflowers were coming out. And I became fascinated with wildflowers and wanting to know more about them. And my mom was pretty good, she knew most of them. I remember one of the big presents I got at Christmas, after my parents were getting on their feet during the war financially a bit, was an Audubon bird book. And it was about the only one available, Birds of North America. And then also plants, wildflowers. A beautiful book on wildflowers of New England or the northeastern states or something

like that. And I'm not sure if I still have those. I don't think I do. But they were pride and joy for me. And I was certainly encouraged by both parents for my interests in understanding and even learning the names and why the plants were related to one another. And then my father was -- he was a -- he believed strongly in evolution. And I found notes in books of his, where he was taking notes from reading Haeckel's -- the German ecologist, who coined the phrase ecology -- the term ecology for the study of animals, and plants, and their relationships. And he also was a German supporter of Darwin, and to the -- not to the pleasure of many German scientists who held out that -- they didn't like the idea that -- some of them were beginning to think there was logic behind Darwin's Theory of Evolution. But they resented the fact that it was an Englishman rather a German that had come forward with this. Whereas Haeckel had become a good friend of Darwin, visited him a couple of times. And was just publishing and supporting him. And some of his publications in German were quickly translated into other languages. And my father had read a translated book of Haeckel's and had made notes about evolutionary theory. And then he used to -- he'd sometimes, usually a Sunday, after the Sunday newspaper had an insert, there was one that had -- this was probably the Boston Globe, that was the Sunday paper we usually got, which was quite good. It had a Sunday insert one time about evolution, and primate evolution as well. And I remember my dad talking about that at the dinner table. And he definitely was an advocate and believed in evolution, although it wasn't particular popular among Christian Protestants. And the church that my mom wanted us to go to was a Congregational, which was pretty liberal Protestant, but even so they didn't -- hadn't really bought into evolution. And my dad was more of a deist and didn't like organized churches too well, partly because of the fact that they were always competing with one another and in conflict with one another, especially the Protestant sects. And so he agreed to -- my mom wanted us to go to Sunday School, which we generally did. And church service went every Sunday, but she explained us that it was dad's preference that we made the decision as to whether we continued after, I think it was age 11. And we would make the decision whether we wanted to go. It'd be up to us. Which I respected him very much for that, and my mother felt it was reasonable.

KAREN BREWSTER: So how did your mother react to the discussion about evolution?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, she had, had -- apparently they had discussed this. And I remember my dad would kid her. And one time -- one of the rare times we went to New York City, which was quite a long ways in those days --with our car, and so we had to stay overnight some place and it was expensive with the whole family. But the one thing my dad said to me that when we get there, "We'll go to the Brooklyn Zoo." And he knew that was the only reason I really wanted to go New York City. And so I remember him saying at the dinner table that, "Yeah, we'll go to the Brooklyn Zoo." And he turned

to my mom and said, “And you can see your relatives there, the monkeys.” And she smiled. It was a joke.

KAREN BREWSTER: So she didn’t agree with evolution in the same way?

DAVID KLEIN: I – well, she never phrased it in those terms then. She was a skeptic, let’s put it that way, probably. But that wasn’t a big, important thing in her life. Important thing in her life was living a life that was good for the family and not -- there was no need for conflict between her and her husband. They were very close, and had a very good relationship. And he was such a hard worker and much of it was tied to providing for the family and supporting growth of the kids and education, schooling, and supporting his wife, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what did your mom do when he died? He died quite young.

DAVID KLEIN: Relatively young, but he -- I think it was 59.

KAREN BREWSTER: He was 59 or it was 1959?

DAVID KLEIN: He was 59, I think. And I was -- but he was starting to have problems, medical problems as a result of having diabetes for more than 20 years, I think. He was diagnosed with diabetes, he must have been in his thirties, early thirties. And then he was in good health before that. Insulin had been invented so he was able to give himself injections once a day and do all the difficult things, like had to sterilize those in boiling water after each time. And then mom was very good at working on his recommended diet with low on sugar. And he was a very active guy and in his work he was on his feet all the time. He was working and when he had any time off he was usually working on the house, or garden. He was busy. And physically he was – he looked to be in good shape and was in good shape and would horse around with my brother and I at times. Liked us to be climbing all over him because he was so strong. And he -- but it was so difficult in those days to keep the insulin level appropriate to your blood sugar level. And even though mom used to, you know, had a scale and tried to keep his diet right so he didn’t eat a lot of sweets then. And she did a good job of balancing a healthy diet for him and us kids with a few rewards like she’d frost a cake for my dad but he wouldn’t eat the frosting. So us kids got the frosting.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, did you have some of your favorite cookies that your mom made?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, yeah, she made the usual variety of Christmas cookies, which were really great. But I loved the pies that she made. Apple pie was one of my favorites, but mincemeat was one of my favorites. It wasn’t necessarily a favorite of my brother and sister, but my dad liked mincemeat very much and I liked it. And she used to use

mincemeat filling in cookies, too, and those were one of my favorites. It took a little more effort to make those than regular cookies, but she had some -- and my grandfather liked them very much and my dad and so did I. So sometimes we could trade with my brother and sister if she made two or three kinds, and I'd end up with more than normal. They liked them, but they weren't their favorites.

KAREN BREWSTER: You traded out -- how many, two sugars for one mince?

DAVID KLEIN: No, I'm sure it varied. And depends on your expertise. And I was probably not very good at it compared to them. My brother was really a top-notch negotiator, I remember. One of the things I remember when -- his negotiations when we moved from Hartland, Vermont down to Hartford, Connecticut where dad had got a job in a factory that was making helicopter parts for Sikorsky Helicopters that were just coming into fashion for use in war, and looked like we were headed for the Second World War. And so we -- the only place we could find for housing was one of these big apartment complexes with like six apartments that was from my brother's and my standpoint, it was the worst possible place. And we went to a public school. We had to walk about eight or so blocks, maybe ten blocks. And we had to go through a section where there was a bunch of French Canadians were coming, and there was a parochial school there the kids went to. And we had to walk through that area and these kids would gather after school and if strangers like us walked through they would like -- You know, we weren't one of them. These were young kids that were in first half of the elementary school.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were elementary school?

DAVID KLEIN: Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: You were in elementary school at that point?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, the first half of elementary school, or even the early half. We moved down there I was in second -- had finished second grade, so it was third through about fourth or fifth grade. Fourth grade probably. It was only a couple of years we were there, then we moved to a better place. But I remember one time -- while at times when we'd come -- my brother and I would walk to school together, which was recommended by my parents. And I felt good to have a big brother. He wasn't that much bigger, but at least he was bigger. And we would go through this area very carefully where the kids -- and if the kids were aggregated around the sidewalk, about the only thing you could do was just kind of walk through and hope that they wouldn't target you. And they did target us several times. And usually we would try to, you know, talk our way through and at the last minute we'd take off running as fast as we could. And we could usually run a little faster as two of us than the whole group of them. And we knew shortcuts. My brother particularly had learned a back alley where there'd be a fence and then we'd have

to go over the fence and I'd have to get a hand from my brother to get over the fence. Once we were over the fence we were pretty much home free, and then we'd work our way back to the apartment. There was one or two times when we just got into the door of the apartment and the kids were already -- one or two of the bigger, tougher guys were right there and mom opened the door and we were saved, you know. We went inside. And she chewed them out. So then one time we went through and it looked like we weren't going to talk this way out and they wanted to do a fight. Well, there were two of us and there were about six or so of them, or seven, of varying ages. And it obviously it wasn't a very fair balance, and my brother -- these kids were French Canadian, but they could speak English. And they were very -- he was a good negotiator and he said, "Well look, I mean it's pointless if we all have a big fight. We're going to hurt badly, and so some of you are, too. And so why don't we just kind of just take the two smallest and the youngest and let them fight. And they're not going to hurt each other badly because they're so small." And that was me. And so we had this fight, me with this youngest boy, French Canadian boy, and of course we squared off and then threw our fists blindly toward one another. He got me right in the nose, which was my weak spot. And my nose started bleeding. And of course that stopped the fight. And all these French Canadians kids were around saying what to do, and how to stop the blood from -- I had a handkerchief. Those days you didn't have Kleenex's or anything, but mom always provided us with a handkerchief. I had that handkerchief, and pulled that out and of course it was filling up with blood. And my nose did bleed easily I noticed, if I got bumped. So at any rate, that was okay, that settled the whole thing and my brother took me home and explained what happened. But pointed out that the other guy didn't win the fight, it's just that I had a nose bleed. [Chuckling]

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it was you come home and you say, "You think I look bad, you should've seen the other guy."

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. But I had great respect for my brother's negotiating ability. [Chuckling] We could've been much worse off.

KAREN BREWSTER: You could've been much worse off, that's right. You took one for the team. You sacrificed. Yeah. Well, you said that your father went out hunting and fishing, do you have memories of going on trips with him to do that?

DAVID KLEIN: No, that was probably, you might say, a sore spot from my perspective. As the first son, of course, was -- that they had was -- the idea was to make a good fisherman and hunter and he'd get to go out first and then when I got old enough, I could go out, too. So he'd get that kind of attention. And I thought -- used to think, well I'm old enough, but obvious it's probably just as well that only one beginner went out with my dad at a time. But the problem was not so much -- it would have happened much more but then about the time I was old enough to do this, my dad was -- the war started

and my dad was working 12-hour shifts, and worked on Saturday, too. And he didn't have any time. And he was always -- and there were all these things to do on the house, which was being renovated. He just didn't have time to go hunting and fishing. And so my brother had gotten -- had been given a gun or two by either my dad or my great uncle who worked for a firearms company. And a single shot 22 and a single shot 12-gauge shotgun. And so he got big enough where he could go out hunting with my sister's dog, which was a Scottie, but it was a pretty good bird dog. And hunt for rabbits in the fields by our house and the fields near our house. And occasionally pheasants, as well. And he'd occasionally get one. He'd got to be a pretty good shot. Some minor problems included his -- it was a single shot 12 gauge and he shot a pheasant and wounded it so it couldn't fly. And the dog had chased it, and so he ran with it and tried to hit it -- hit the pheasant. He didn't have time to refill the shotgun and using a 12 gauge when you're up close range, it's not very effective anyway; you're liable to miss. So he hit the pheasant with the -- he didn't hit with the barrel, he hit it with the stock and broke the stock. Hit the ground instead. So that, when I finally got big enough and had decided I wanted to go hunting, and was big enough so that my parents would let me go. And my brother, I think had bought another shotgun or maybe he was given another one. A double barrel, which was better. So nobody was around to give me, at the time, another one, and I didn't expect to get it from my parents because we needed the money for other things much more than a shotgun. So I was beginning to become handy at making models and things; made a nice model sailboat once. And my brother was making model airplanes, and I thought well maybe I could tackle making a new stock for this shotgun. And my brother sort of knew how to do it. He hadn't done it himself, but -- So I told him I wanted to do it and he said, "Yeah, you can do it." And he told me what to do. And so I -- once I -- the only probably I had was drilling a long hole through the stock to attach it to the barrel. I didn't have the proper tools to do it. I just had a hand drill. So I was able finally to do it and I figured out ways to drill from both sides, and try to keep them straight so that they would meet in the center. And I made it. And finally finished it off and it was a pretty professional job. I think I still have that shotgun somewhere. And I was really proud of doing it, but I got more fun out of doing that than I ever did out of hunting with it. I wasn't a very good shot, and it was a 12 gauge so you had -- it had a terrific kick. And you had a sore shoulder if you shot too many times.

KAREN BREWSTER: So did your brother teach you how to shoot then or --

DAVID KLEIN: More or less.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- your dad?

DAVID KLEIN: No, it was probably my brother mostly. Yeah, but it was just by association more than anything else.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, somehow you developed the love of nature and the outdoors. You know, obviously your mom going on those walks, and birding, and wildflowers. But did you go camping and spend time out in the woods?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. And my father, right after we first moved down to Connecticut, my father built one of these, like a trailer, house trailer with a -- I mean a cabin trailer that was -- he got axels -- found axels somewhere at a used auto place. And made all the -- redid the flooring and then made a sort of like a fold-up deal. So it was canvas and folded out. He used some plans that he'd seen someplace in an Outdoor Life or something like that. And made a very nice -- he was a good craftsman and maybe had a little help on the canvas sewing for my mom. And it was good. And it could sleep all five of us. And so we trailed it down to the beach, on Long Island Sound in Connecticut, coast of Long Island Sound. And when he had his annual vacation for maybe ten days or something like that. And that was nirvana. The whole family loved that. And you know we had a little stove, like a Coleman stove, I think, for cooking on; early models. And it was just a wonderful experience. And I got into a little trouble there and my brother too, because we would -- we'd just spend the whole day out in the shallow water in the bay where there wasn't any waves coming in. And it was safe. I didn't know how to swim and my brother did. And so I never really had the chance to swim, to learn to swim. And so then we found a log, a big, short log, and we realized you could sit on it. And we found some driftwood and we were able to nail a little outrigger log on it so we could get on and paddle it out, which we did and we were way out. Much deeper water than he and I were supposed to go, especially with me. And we got away with that for a day and a half I think, and then my mom or father saw we were out there too far. So he got chewed out worse than me, because he was supposed to know that I shouldn't go out there. And I got chewed out, too. But then there was a great pressure for me to learn to swim, and there was a public swimming pool about ten blocks from where we lived in Hartford. And we would go there, especially in hot weather. It was pretty crowded but I got started a little bit. But I didn't learn very fast. I finally learned to dog paddle and from then on I was okay.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you knew how to float.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what other things did you do for fun as a kid?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, in Vermont, when I went through first and second grade, oh we did the usual things, playing kick the can and things like that with other kids. If there were other kids around. And recess, you could do all kinds of things. There might have been one or two softballs around, I don't know about softballs, even softball wasn't very popular then, it was hardball. And kids didn't usually mess with hardballs. But there

was -- there was chasing, and you play -- mark out things in the field and you play kind of like fox and geese and that kind of stuff where girls would play too and that kind of thing. And then I had an experience, I had a close friend, a boy in the same grade; I forget whether it was first or second. And I got permission to spend part of the -- rest of the afternoon with him after we got out of school and it was only a short walk, about a half a mile at the most, from the center of the town where the school was to where we lived. And so we were hanging around -- he and I were hanging around this town hall, which is a unique little, brick, very classical construction town hall building. And had a mini library in the basement. Very mini. And the basement was like it had a half above ground so that there was -- so you'd go up steps into where the town hall office was. But there were these tall windows with a big pane in the bottom and one in the top. And it was right at the edge of this sidewalk that went around this building. And it was a little park like there right in the center of town. It was a really nice place for little boys that liked to wander around. So we were talking and not noticing what we were doing, and I bumped this one window and broke the glass. And, you know, the first reaction was we should run like hell. But then we thought, no, this is terrible, and "I didn't try to do it! I didn't try to do it!" And to break a big window like that, at that time when it was in the Depression and I thought that's going to cost megabucks. And so I didn't know what to do. I went home and I told my mom that I'd done it, and she said, "Well, we have to go down, and you have to tell them that you did it." So she took me by the hand and we walked back down. And the office was still open and we went up to the desk. And my mom said, "My son has something to tell you." So I said, "Yeah I broke the window. I didn't mean to." I was probably close to tears. And my mom said, "You know, we'll pay for it." I don't know, it was probably substantial for our budget at the time, a dollar or a dollar and a half. But it was more than that to replace it, I'm sure, to put it in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: And my father could have done that, too. Maybe he did, I don't know. But I'd say, she got across her message that, you know, if you do something like that, you know that's public and it costs money and you have to take responsibility for something like that. You can't just walk away. And, of course, they were getting across the concept, you know if there was an old abandoned barn and had glass in it, kids, boys particularly, would love to break those kind of glass just for the sake of doing it. They weren't trying to -- it didn't make any difference because that building was going down anyway. So they got across this message that that kind of stuff, that's something like vandalism.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what about cross-country skiing? Now you're an ardent cross-country skier. When did that come in?

DAVID KLEIN: That's much, much later in my life. Anyway, the best -- we couldn't afford, when we lived in Vermont, to get skis. And downhill skiing didn't exist at that

time, nor cross-country skiing, in fact. There might have been people that were doing it, but I never heard of any. And so -- but we would slide. We couldn't afford to buy --the thing would be to get a nice sled with runners. A big one that you could go down the driveway when the snow would get packed down and steer it. And then the next was, there was a steep slope there that the driveway kind of made a turn so it didn't have to go straight up. Then you could slide down that on a toboggan. Well, we couldn't afford toboggans. We could use the -- and they didn't have plastic and cardboard like we have now. Maybe occasionally you'd have some kind of cardboard you could use and sit on that and slide down. And that was fun. But we also tried taking barrel staves from old barrels.

KAREN BREWSTER: What are barrel staves?

DAVID KLEIN: They're what barrels are made out of. The wooden --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the wooden - - I was thinking of barrels that go around, but the upward parts.

DAVID KLEIN: The staves are the ones that are wooden, and the other metal --

KAREN BREWSTER: Goes -- Okay.

DAVID KLEIN: So -- And then kind of sand it down on the bottom and try to slide down the hill. Put some kind of strap on them, slide down the hill on those. They don't work well at all, but the effort was fun. And you know, you'd go a little way and fall down, but that was no big deal. We didn't mind falling if you're dressed warmly and having fun in the snow.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, but a barrel stave's not very wide.

DAVID KLEIN: Depends on the size of the barrel, but yeah, it's wide.

KAREN BREWSTER: Six inches about.

DAVID KLEIN: No, no, about four and a half.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay.

DAVID KLEIN: And turned up equally on either end. But they would tend to roll down when you'd sit on it depending on where you -- With experimentation, if you put it way on the back, probably it would have worked. We never tried it.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then you'd pull up on the front?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, they make skis that are double-ended.

DAVID KLEIN: We didn't -- we didn't have any familiarity with skis at all. We knew they existed, yeah. And we knew someplace that people did downhill skiing, but not anywhere near where we lived in Vermont at the time. Yeah, we had fun building snow forts. And we had sometimes good snow for that, and snowball fights, and snowmen sometimes. And -- but it did make travel -- we liked to go in the woods and when it was a lot of snow, you couldn't do that because just -- we didn't have snowshoes or skis. And we knew about snowshoes, but they were out of our price range. And we didn't have any price that we got money to begin with.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cuz this was during the Depression?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What about ice skating?

DAVID KLEIN: Again, there weren't any good ponds there. When we moved to Connecticut, once or twice there were places. But ice skates with a snowboot on them, they were super expensive. And so there weren't any used ones you could buy. You had these that you clamped onto your sole.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: And you had a key that kind of screwed them on. And you had to have good shoes with a good sole and we didn't have usually that kind of stuff. And on kids of varying sizes. And these were mostly made for adults to use them. We sometimes ran around on the ice and slid and played something like hockey without any ice skates on, especially on new ice, which was fun because it would sag under your weight but it was pretty strong. It wasn't -- usually in places that weren't very -- ponds that weren't very deep. We learned about ice, that once you got familiar with it you could just run across these and the ice would go down and you'd hear it crack a little bit but it wouldn't break like older ice will do if it's -- and especially in the spring. So it -- yeah that -- And then when we moved up into Buckland out of the city onto this farm area, there was an ice pond. By this time we're older, and there were some skating parties. But again, I usually didn't -- it was only two or three times in the winter when it would be good because it might thaw or might get a too deep snow and nobody would -- But there were a few times and even in high school, when we'd shovel the snow off and have the bonfire on the side.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, somebody has to go keep that pond free of snow.

DAVID KLEIN: We had to shovel it yeah, where you'd want to -- So you'd start with a small place and then the more people came you could shovel more and more, as long as you kept a shovel there. Yeah, that was -- some of that was pretty nice. And there was

this one pond we went to, and -- yeah, I had skates then I think, shoe skates. And so we played a bit of hockey with homemade sticks, hockey sticks. And that was fun. I liked that. But there wasn't any active hockey in the schools or in high school. In wintertime, it was mostly indoor sports. It was, yeah --

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you play organized, indoor sports like basketball or, well, I guess, football's not really indoor but --

DAVID KLEIN: Basketball.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- when you were in school?

DAVID KLEIN: In high school, we had our own -- five of my school buddies had our own intramural basketball team. We called it the "Jesters" because we all had a good sense of humor and got more fun out of it than we did, whether we lost or won. And we lost most of the time because we didn't practice much. But we had a good time. And it was a team -- We stayed together as friends and still might get together once every five or so years back in New England with the other four guys that were -- We were really close friends and hung out together a lot. And part of it was, only one of the four of us had an automobile and had some gas. We chipped in for gas, but he was the son of a farmer and his dad had a little more gas to use for his tractors. And he also worked on the farm, his dad's farm, so he had this car. It was an old but functional car, sedan that I forget what kind it was. But he was the one that did the -- drove when we'd get together because we were spread out. I lived way out of the city, and -- I lived about three miles, it seemed way out, from where the guy with the car was and the others lived another two miles or mile, yeah about two miles from where he lived in the other direction. So yeah, he'd pick us up and the first thing he'd do when we all got in and he'd say, "Okay, twenty-five cents." And we had to go and get some gas. To buy the gas.

KAREN BREWSTER: Sounds so cheap, twenty-five cents for gas.

DAVID KLEIN: That was, well each. Just for that time around. That's true. Well, he didn't do it all the time obviously, it was just -- and he filled up -- We didn't go to the gas station because he -- they got gas delivered for the farm, it was cheaper that way. And they could load the tractor and cars at the farm.

KAREN BREWSTER: So this was outside of Hartford, you didn't live directly in town?

DAVID KLEIN: This was -- No, we moved out of Hartford when my dad and mom found this place where they could have a big -- some land to have chickens, a garden, and some -- you know, a war garden. But it was more than a war garden for us because my dad was into that. And in Vermont the same way during the Depression. And he was -- he loved gardening. He loved doing things in an energy-efficient way. And also it wasn't

a question of fossil fuels and greenhouse gases, it was a question of the cost of fertilizer. If you have -- and commercial fertilizer, why not use natural. So if you've got animals, chickens, or pig, or cattle, or sheep, or whatever, or goat, you could feed the vegetation to them and have fertilization for the garden. And that's what we did. And he loved gardening, but he loved to plant it so that what you grew and everything else would be most efficient to get a harvest that provided a diversity of good things you wanted to eat. And we had a big root cellar. We harvest a lot. My mom canned a lot of things when there was extra, especially fruit, but also a few vegetables like peas and corn and things like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: So this was outside of Hartford, did that town have a name or -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: Buckland.

KAREN BREWSTER: Buckland.

DAVID KLEIN: That was a suburb of the bigger town called Manchester. And that town of Manchester was about, at that time, probably twelve to fifteen thousand people. Whereas Buckland was just a couple hundred, two or three hundred, maybe. Buckland had a post office, gas station, one store, and the gas station had a repair deal.

KAREN BREWSTER: But it was some place close to -- your father then commuted to work at Sikorsky?

DAVID KLEIN: That was -- he had to commute into Hartford. that was about twelve miles one way, yeah. And there were also buses that came through Buckland, which was just two blocks from where we lived that was on the main road. Buses to Hartford and also to North Manchester make a connection to South Manchester where the high school was. And that's how you got to school unless you could ride your bike in the summer or in the fall and spring. And there was no school bus there. There were school buses in other rural areas where there weren't public bus service. That was the hard part of going to high school is that I was like about four miles, four and a half miles, from where we lived in Buckland to the high school. And the high school had -- was a good high school. It was built by the -- originally by the Cheney Silk Mills, which was a very prosperous and well-designed mill system that was way ahead of its time in business management, labor management. They had all kinds of retirement programs and they hired a lot of women to work in the mills. This was started in the Cheney Mills. Cheney brothers started these mills in the late 1800's and they continued until about 1940. And so they --

KAREN BREWSTER: What's the name?

DAVID KLEIN: Cheney.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cheney.

DAVID KLEIN: C-H-E -- somewhere I have the description of that. It's amazing that --

KAREN BREWSTER: Cheney Silk Mills.

DAVID KLEIN: -- how progressive they were because they had, sort of -- they wanted women to dress nicely and they provided dress clothing. You came and had a locker. Every woman could change their clothes. They had toilets and showers and they had a full-time nurse and a doctor that was there for the whole mill. They hired a lot of people, and they trained workers. They encouraged -- they had immigrants to come and work in the mill. But not -- they sent representatives of the company, some of the administrators overseas, and they'd go to a specific country and they would encourage people to come. Bring the whole family. One or two of them might have already had training necessary and they would bring the whole family over, pay the costs, and set them up in their rental house. And pay them, and train the younger ones to work on different jobs, everything from landscaping -- The whole thing was like a park, it was well landscaped and nicely designed.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so the school was on their property, it was like the --

DAVID KLEIN: Originally it was --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- like the company school?

DAVID KLEIN: The company had shut down in the '40's, early '40's. So before it was scaled down so that -- that school when they built it, the Cheney brothers, it was primarily for the workers, but it was -- But everything they did was open usually to the public. When they built a recreation area for their workers, they would let the public come. Maybe there would be a small fee for the public to use it, for a towel or something. They were very progressive, and unbelievably so. I didn't appreciate it at the time, but when I've been back and now it's sort of a museum and they've converted these old mills. They were so well built, they've converted them into beautiful upscale apartment complexes. The neighbor across the street was there with her boyfriend and lived in one of those apartments, and she was very impressed by it.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's funny.

DAVID KLEIN: And another guy who graduated from that high school is Brian Rogers, the Chancellor [at University of Alaska Fairbanks]. His father was doing some kind of work there at the time, and he went to Manchester High and graduated from there.

KAREN BREWSTER: So that's what it was called, it was called Manchester High even though it was related to this mill? Okay.

DAVID KLEIN: By the time I was there it was taken over management by the city. But all of the -- not quite all the grades. It was a pretty big -- by that time a pretty big high school. I forget how many in my graduating class, though it was a pretty good size. Most of the classes were in the old Cheney building and there was another building across the street that was -- I think it was a Cheney building too, smaller but some of the beginning freshman classes were there. And then there was another building which was half had the swimming pool and recreation areas, and the other half was a trade school. But the swimming pool and recreation area were available for both the high school students as well as the classes -- swim classes for the trade school. And the trade school had a good record. So you had different programs in high school and if you wanted to go the trade school approach, you only went two and a half years there, then you went into the trade school and finished off there. Now if you were sort of a college route, or even the non-college route, you didn't want to go to the trade school, you'd go main courses all in that one place.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what was your high school experience like?

DAVID KLEIN: It was -- it was a lot of good experiences. And part of it was friendships. That's always been important in my life, is friendships I've made and these seemed to last. And to sort out your relationships where you have things in common and you learn that -- You get this bonding and even though sometimes you're quite different personalities, you learn to appreciate other people. And they don't have to be just like you. And then, of the four of us, I think there was one Catholic. Of the five of us, there was one Catholic, the rest were sort of different Protestant, Presbyterian, and Lutheran, and partly based on what their nationality origins were of their parents. And then the churches, or appreciation of churches were often tied to -- I was in Boy Scouts and where the Boy Scout troop met, which church basement or whatever. And then -- well I might as well deal with the Boy Scout thing too. I was really excited about Boy Scouts and when I was in Boy Scouts and --

KAREN BREWSTER: You were not very excited?

DAVID KLEIN: I was excited.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you were excited.

DAVID KLEIN: Mainly because of the outdoor camping and learning outdoor skills. And the part I really didn't do much is, you know, the uniform military training. Not in depth, but to get you in the mode so that -- Boy Scouts was started by Lord Baden-Powell, who was from Rhodesia, I guess. And the importance of training young men to be good fighters, and not just good fighters but leaders and good fighters. And that I didn't get to appreciate so much until later, including after I was in the Navy for a year. And the other aspect of it was the fact that it was discriminatory in some ways. While of

course it was -- in those days there was a Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and there was no opportunity of an advanced level of scouting for co-ed. But there was a movement starting about that time. And then I was sort of a super achiever in the Scouts because I liked the merit badge concept where you develop a skill and you refine it enough so that you can get a merit badge. And you can accumulate these and of course you can move on toward Eagle Scouts. And this is where I ran into problems that were related to the war and time, and the location where I lived. And also the fact that I wasn't able to get into organized sports in high school, except this intramural stuff where it was done when time was available and on our own time. And that was because I lived so far away. If I stayed for practice, intramural, not for intramural for any kind of practice, but for team sports, that was pretty strict about you doing the practice. Whether it was track, which I was interested in. Swimming I was interested in. And soccer. A little bit on basketball, but I was more interested in track, soccer, and swimming. And some of my buddies were in these, especially swimming. And by this time, I -- where we had swimming classes, I'd become quite a good swimmer and I wanted to do that. But I couldn't do it and still get home effectively. I'd get home around 9 o'clock in the evening, which was -- And one of the things my parents tried to work out, which was more important than this to them, in retrospect yeah, it was for us, too. This was the only time when, during the war, when my dad was working these long night shifts, only time we had to see him during the week was -- He was sleeping during the day, and he would get up in time for supper, so we'd have supper together in the evening and then he'd go off to work. And that was -- I didn't realize how important it was, because other families weren't as lucky as that to have organized time working during the war and long shifts and stuff. Financially it was helpful because he was getting overtime pay for all this extra stuff and was getting better off financially, but it was tough. So then getting back to scouting, I had all of the -- the total number of merit badges I had were, I think, 21. That's the number you needed to become an Eagle Scout but I didn't have the -- there was one, athletics. And I couldn't get it because I went to -- there were two coaches, the swim coach and the track coach were both merit badge advisors. They were the only ones you could do a merit badge with. And I went to them and I said, "You know, can I -- ?" They said, "Sure, yeah, just come and join the team and come to practice and we'll teach you to -- You'll learn a lot and you're physically fine. And we can probably by the end of the year, you'll qualify." I said, "I can't do that because I can't stay after school." "Well, try the track coach." I tried him and it was the same thing. And they were both good guys that I thought would be -- and they had a good record, but you know their position had to be that, I'm sure. And then there were these distracting things too, because then the Boy Scouts were -- during the war, especially ones like myself that had worked our way up, we were asked to join the Civil Patrol. Well, the Civil Patrol were adult men and Boy Scouts who would -- the main thing we would do would be to wander around at night and make sure people had their shades down because there were Japanese -- no German submarines off the

coast of New England. And we never knew at that stage of the war whether there would maybe be some kind of a flyover by German planes. And so, there were blackouts all the time. And if someone didn't have the shades down and lights were shining, nope, knock on the door and -- usually you paired off with a more senior guy who for health reason or some other reason couldn't be in the war or were working at that time. And then the Scouts would go along with him, so it'd be a pair of us. And that was -- you know, we felt good about that. Doing that. But then I didn't get the merit badge I needed. And then by the time I got out of the Navy, I was realizing that a lot of things with the Boy Scouts, I really didn't appreciate. And this was a difficult thing for me after -- and I still haven't addressed it and explained this fully to my son and family. Mainly my son who is -- who did get an Eagle Scout here. And it was like, I don't want to be a Scout Leader because I really didn't -- I could have been a Scout Master and stayed involved in scouting. But I felt I didn't want to because I didn't believe in the -- and especially by that time it was obvious that it was very racially separated in the north and the south. In the south there were black troops and white troops and they didn't mix. In New England that wasn't an issue, but we did have a black guy in our troop and nobody was concerned about that. He was a good guy, who was just like anybody else. But with the Boy Scouts itself, and then the religious aspect of it as well, as well as the military. And then the gender thing started to come to a head then.

KAREN BREWSTER: I didn't realize that the Boy Scouts have such a religious aspect. The military part I would assume but --

DAVID KLEIN: Well, the Boy Scout motto is sort of like, "In God we Trust." Or I forget what it was that you had to memorize this thing, and a lot of it meant believe in God. And where it wasn't a big issue when I was younger, but by the time I got out of the Navy, it was becoming an issue for me. And so that was all part of it, but when I was -- after I was a year in the Navy, worked in forestry, came to Alaska, spent a year, worked my way back and did undergraduate work. And came back to do a Master's degree, Korean War was on. And I was stationed at Fort Wainwright, then called Ladd Field and the 4th Infantry. And they had offered -- made options of doing things that were -- to be in the Scouts Platoon because I'd had a lot of experience, field experience in Alaska, etc. And that turned out to be pretty nice. And of course, Boy Scouting was part of that background. And then there was -- they have this Boy Scout Camp -- Fairbanks area Boy Scouts have down at the lake up above -- It's called Lost Lake up above, Quartz Lake, no --

KAREN BREWSTER: Above Harding [Lake]?

DAVID KLEIN: -- above Harding, no Birch [Lake], above Birch.

KAREN BREWSTER: I get them all confused.

DAVID KLEIN: I know it's easy. So they needed a -- someone to be a Merit Badge Monitor for a couple of areas. Camping and others. And asked me -- they said, the military -- the scouts contacted the military and asked if there was somebody they could get on loan to fill those positions during summer scout camp for two weeks, I think it was. And so they asked me if I wanted to do that and I hemmed and hawed, and then I said, "Yeah." I believed in that kind of training for the boys. And it was a really nice break from the military. So I went out and lived in the tent camps and took them on hikes and stuff like that. And the other one was nature interpretation or something. And I obviously enjoyed that very much, and I felt good about doing that. And felt good about that aspect of Boy Scouting. But at the same time I didn't feel like a Boy Scout.

KAREN BREWSTER: But your son went through it, so you were not so opposed to it that you didn't allow him. That you didn't stop him.

DAVID KLEIN: No, I mean, I've never felt strong about restricting behavior that related to their belief system and that including scouting. That was their decisions. And I did with Arlayne [sp?] when the kids were growing up, she wanted them all to go to Sunday school and initially wanted me to go to church all the time, too. And her attitude was, I'm good person I'll be changed and saved, but it just takes time. But she's very -- she loved camping and outdoor activities and so we did a lot of camping. And as far as what the kids did, the girls got into the swim club, both of them. And they became quite good swimmers. And Laura stuck with it and became -- went on the West Valley Swim Team and won her letter and was a top-notch swimmer. And Peggy Ellen was a good swimmer too, maybe even, at the stage she dropped out was a little bit better. But Peggy Ellen, she's not big on competition. She was a good swimmer at that stage and that was fine, she felt good about herself being able to be an achiever. And the swim clubs were good, put a lot of emphasis on improvement rather than winning.

KAREN BREWSTER: I wanted to ask you before. We were just talking about religion, that you had said growing up, your parents said when you're 11 you can decide if you're going to continue to go to Sunday school or not, or go to church or not. So what did you decide?

DAVID KLEIN: I didn't go to Sunday school after that. I think the same was true of my brother and probably my sister too, I don't know about that. But then during the Second World War, there was this -- the church had a youth group of teenagers. And I went to that a little bit. My mother was still active in the church. And of course, with the youth group, what they wanted to do is they wanted to get you into having a good time, socializing, but then get you into teaching Sunday school too. And I said, "I didn't want to do that." And I had to say that emphatically quite a bit, and that was okay, but then I began to have fun in this youth group. And they put on plays and I enjoyed being a part of that, acting and fun. I was interested in that. And one of the highlights, and this is an

important one for me as a young male, is the males after 18, they were all drafted and many of them enlisted after they were 16, so there were very few young males. And here are all these young women. Some of them had boyfriends off fighting the war. And they enjoyed socializing and here was just me. It was an enjoyable situation for me. I had a close relationship with some of these girls that were a year or two older than I was. And I was really impressed by them because they seemed so much more mature. And sometimes we'd go to a movie in Hartford, with three of us, two gals and me. Hold hands in the movie with both of them. But it was quite understood that they had boyfriends and it was -- we just enjoyed one another. And yeah, I got closer to one young woman who was a year behind me there in that group. But the minister was a good guy, he was about 35, and he was not -- didn't push the religion part of things very much. And, of course, the deacons wanted us to eventually join the church. So I had second thoughts about that. And of course, my mom would have been happy if I did, but she knew where I was in this youth group and encouraged that. And then he sort of gave us some instructions and class and we got into some really good discussions. And in these discussions, it wasn't just me but others also raised questions. Well, how can we buy into something if we don't understand it? Like the Trinity, for example. What does this mean, is there three Gods or just one God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? And he did a fair job of saying, "Well, it's a tough one and even I don't comprehend it very well." He said -- like he said first, the purposes of joining the church, well, it's not that important that you understand all this. And, of course, that wasn't too satisfying to us but we liked this guy so much that he said, "It's complicated and we got to -- you may not figure it out for a while, but stick with it." And then -- this is jumping ahead, but then he said -- then he -- I don't know a year or two later he decided he wanted to give up the minister position. He was going to go back to school, theology school, he was more interested in philosophy than he was in being -- and I thought that made sense because he was just a deep thinker, a really great guy, and he realized himself it isn't that simple and if I'm going to continue in this, I'd better get more religion and philosophy. So that would leave it up to him to make a decision later on. I don't know where he went. I would suspect he became a professor in some school. And was quasi-philosopher and taught religion, too. But he was such a nice guy and he related to us young people very well. But that included one time when we were asked to put on the service and we'd each had some things to say in the service, and I forget what my role was, it was -- I didn't -- I mean, none of us gave a sermon but we had to read parables out of the Bible and a minor interpretation and I thought, "Can I do this? I better see what it says first." And I went ahead with it and it was just part of a bigger whole. But about that time I decided I don't think I really want to be a member of the church.

KAREN BREWSTER: So in high school, did you have a favorite subject? Or a favorite class?

DAVID KLEIN: In high school I was not a good student. In elementary school partly because I didn't focus enough on some of the basics like language, reading, spelling. That -- I was slow in starting reading, but my sister and brother were much earlier, so I was -- when they started and they became ardent readers. And even by the time I was seventh and eighth grade, I didn't read very much. Partly because I never took the time. I didn't do my homework well, and I would -- And same with things like math. I'd get by but just barely because I wouldn't do an adequate job on things like homework. And the teacher I had in seventh and eighth grade when we moved there to Buckland, then it was a four-room schoolhouse, two grades to the room. And the teacher I had was a senior woman. She was also the principal. She was a terrific person and good teacher. I really liked her a lot. She liked me. And -- but I was sometimes disruptive in the class by -- you know, if she was turning her back I was teasing with a guy or a gal or something, or whispering or things like that. Not paying attention. And the worst thing I did there once, was, it was summer or spring and the grass was green, not dyed. And it was a warm day and the windows -- we had these big windows that were about this high, opened up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Three feet. You mean three feet from the ground?

DAVID KLEIN: From the floor. And we were -- there was a basement that had some windows in it so that the classrooms were up there about eight or nine feet above the ground. And there were some shrubs right up against the building, lilac or something. And it was sunny and the windows were open and the teacher -- one of the other teachers apparently contacted her and wanted to talk to her. And so she said, "I'll be right back." So she left with the idea she'd be back in a couple of minutes. And we sat there, and you know what do kids do when -- And it dragged on more than, I guess, six or eight minutes. So some of us more adventurous ones were up there at the window looking out and watching the traffic go by, quite a ways out. I mean it was a nice big lawn there between the school and the main road. And then one of the guys, I don't whether it was me, but suggested, "Well, I bet I could jump down from here without hurting myself, onto the grass." I probably said that. The other guys said, "Nah, nah, you can't do it" or "Maybe we can do it, too." But then I said, "Well, go ahead." And they didn't so I figured, well, teacher's gone. So I figured I could jump out and run around and come back before she gets back in the room. So I got up on the window sill and I leaped out. She just walked in as I was going out the window. And she rushed to the window and the worst case scenario was some friend of hers was driving by, and here's her classroom and a student is leaping out the window, and she's here [laughing]. So when I came back -- She was never too severe, but she sent a note home to my mom. And apparently it was just for my mom, not for me. Apparently, she explained how embarrassing it was. And that she shouldn't have been out of the room for that long, but I shouldn't have done that either. But it was -- she felt so bad because it was so embarrassing to her. Here was her classroom, which wouldn't have happened if she was under control. But she wasn't under

control; she was out of the room. And oh, and my mom explained the whole thing to me as well, and said -- and she was good about, think about her. And I was pretty good about thinking about other people and so I got the message. And I was -- really felt bad about it, and the teacher, I don't know whether I actually apologized but she was aware that I realized that I shouldn't have done that and sort of understood. But earlier on, she'd send notes home that said, "Dave is not keeping up -- studying, practicing spelling and is doing very poorly on his spelling." She'd say, "I know he can do better. I know he can do better. But it's very disappointing to me that he's not living up to his capabilities." And that, I think, was my problem in high school, too. I mean I was a C student. The only courses I did well in were biology. And I did super well in that. And mechanical drawing, I loved that. Mechanical drawing. And one of my close buddies, he was also good. We were the only two that got A's in this class. And there I had problems because the guy that taught it, he was a good guy, we liked him. And he liked the fact that we were good learners, the other guy and I. And when we were doing something, he didn't encourage the other kids to come to us if they had a problem, but if he'd go out of the room, then we'd offer to help them out. And if they had a particular problem of which tools to use and how to -- we'd usually have something and then we'd have to make a drawing of a gear or something. And the others had real problems. And so at that time this high school had instituted another, additional grading system on behavior. Department or something, whatever it was called. And there was -- if you were real disruptive and not a good student, you got a '1' adjacent to your letter grade. If you were a little bit of a problem, a '2', and if you were still a potential problem, a '3.' And no letter grade there made a difference. Well, this was mainly for your parents to be aware of what you're doing, I think. And so it turned out that I was the only person that he'd ever given an 'A1' to. In other words, the most disturbing and it was -- and I wasn't that disturbing in that one. Because what happened is he'd go out of the room, I think he would go out for a smoke with his buddies somewhere, they probably had a smoke room. And he'd be gone for, say ten minutes. And when he'd come back these kids would be gathered around my desk as well as my buddy's desk. But his desk was close to the door and they could hear his footsteps and so they would get away from his desk and he'd come in and, "Klein." And here all these people were gathering around, and he felt that I was talking to them too much. Well, I was helping them. And I probably was talking to them too or with them. And so it was sort of an honor to get an --

KAREN BREWSTER: An 'A1'.

DAVID KLEIN: -- an 'A' and it was, you know, like the only 'A' I got .

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But it was a disruptive "A".

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was going to ask you something. I don't remember. I was going to ask you something before about your classes. Oh well, I was going to ask you, backtracking, just cuz I didn't quite understand. When you were jumping out the window, so your classroom was above ground or your classroom was in the basement?

DAVID KLEIN: There's a picture --

KAREN BREWSTER: You can't get up. You're attached [the microphone]. You can get up a little ways. In your photo album?

DAVID KLEIN: No, I brought back from this trip that I took to -- of that school. I'll show it to you later.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay. So I was trying to figure out what you were jumping out of to.

DAVID KLEIN: I landed on the lawn and it was pretty soft. I didn't hurt myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were able to run back in.

DAVID KLEIN: Maybe I had to have the hip replacement a little earlier after that?

KAREN BREWSTER: I guess I was thinking we should probably end pretty soon.

DAVID KLEIN: Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: We should probably end for this evening pretty soon. But just to finish up the childhood, sort of. Is there any particular, you know, favorite childhood memory you can think of? Or some story you haven't told me about?

DAVID KLEIN: Probably there are several, but that'd be an overload. But I don't think any right now, let's put it that way. It's probably just as well I don't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, but it does, I guess, overall how would you assess your childhood?

DAVID KLEIN: It was very good. There were some tough spots and the tough spots -- oh yeah, one of the toughest spots was moving from the country in Vermont down to -- right into this apartment complex. And that was a tough spot. The toughest spot there was, I think, the first weekend after we had moved in and my brother had made a friend at school who wanted to take us -- to show us within walking distance, a little museum that had -- sort of like a house that had mounted animals and other things in it. And it was through a park and through residential areas, and this guy knew the way and everything. So he suggested that he and I -- to my parents, that he and I do that. "Yeah that'd be great." So we took off and went to the museum. And yeah it was a nice experience for

us. Anything with a few stuffed animals in those days. There wasn't -- And then coming back -- and of course, this guy had led the way. And certainly -- and my brother might have had a clue how to get home after that one trip, but I didn't when you're going with somebody and they're leading the way with this little younger brother. And we ran -- I think it was in one of these parks, a small park, and there were a bunch of kids again, were in a gang sort of. And so we said, "Okay, let's run like hell." So we ran like hell. And I couldn't run as fast as they could. And we got away from these kids -- but we got away from them and there was no sign of my brother and this other guy. And so I went ahead a little ways, and then I thought I've got to stop and wait. And they didn't come back. And so then I started looking -- I figured well they probably didn't run a straight line, they went in one direction and I went in that direction, one or the other. Of course, by that time I was really lost. So then I went back, I think, to where -- you know, closer to this museum, but it wasn't close to it. And it was where there was a street with some shops on it. And I think I thought, well, I'll ask a policeman. And then I thought, what will I ask? I don't know the name of where I live, no phone, all I know is my name. And so I -- what did I do? I asked somebody. Maybe it was a policeman that was walking? What I should have asked, now in retrospect, was where that museum was and gone back to there, but I didn't. I asked them something and I realized maybe I remember the name of some street up close to where I lived but not the street we lived on. But it was a little alley or something. I might have mentioned that. But I don't think I -- I didn't want to say I was lost. And so I wandered back and forth. And it's getting late, you know it's getting after five and it's in the fall when it doesn't stay light forever. And then I was starting to get frightened and feeling that like, how can anybody ever find me because I don't even know -- I can't get any help from anybody. And I didn't know what to do. And I didn't realize that if you contacted the police at least if my parents had contacted them, they could know where I might be. But I was getting to that stage where I was almost feeling like just standing there and starting to cry. And I saw dad coming down the street. And, oh man, that was such a wonderful feeling. So he was out covering a lot of ground looking for me. And I think my older brother and his friend were also looking, but in different areas. And oh man, such a wonderful feeling when you realize you're in this city and you're not a city person. Back in Vermont, in the woods, I would have known my way home. But there because I'd know the mountain slope and I'd be reading different signals. But I wasn't capable of reading, hadn't learned how to read the landmarks and use them. On the way to school I could do that, and we'd only been there -- but we hadn't even started school I think that weekend. It was the worst case scenario that could happen.

KAREN BREWSTER: So yeah, your brother made it home and then they came out looking for you, or something?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. And when my dad came home from work, I think he went out with them and he had them go where they knew the way.

KAREN BREWSTER: So how old would you have been?

DAVID KLEIN: I would have been third grade.

KAREN BREWSTER: So about 8? Or 7 or 8. Something like that.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. And especially, you know, if I was with my brother and he was with somebody that knew the area, so then you felt okay. But we wouldn't have done anything like -- tackle anything like that by myself. Maybe with my parents if they were available, could go there to that museum.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was that the first time you went to a museum?

DAVID KLEIN: Probably. It was like a house, it wasn't a very big museum. It was a private home place. But it was -- And you wouldn't recognize it as a museum unless it might have had a small sign on it. The kid knew about it and he'd been there once before, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like somebody's private collection of stuffed animals.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, yeah. And there were a few other things too, so it was somebody that -- I don't whether they died and he had left it to be that. It might have been the case. Or one of the heirs decided to use it for that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I think next I would start asking you about the military and all that, and I think we'll save that --

DAVID KLEIN: The what?

KAREN BREWSTER: I think the next thing to move into is when you went to the Navy and --

DAVID KLEIN: Sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- and coming to Alaska and all that. I think it's too much to start with now this late. Is that okay that we --

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- stop for now.

DAVID KLEIN: Of course. You're the one that has to be okay, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, well you're the one doing all the talking. I don't want to tire you out.

[End of tape]