

Name: David Klein
Date of Interview: 2/20/14
Location of Interview: Home of David Klein in Fairbanks, Alaska
Interviewer: Karen Brewster

Brief Summary of Interview: David Klein finishes talking about working on his master's degree and how most of the time it was solo work. He also mentions success and failures of his fieldwork, his mom coming to Alaska and visiting, things he did for fun, working at hunting check stations, and he talks a little about Otto Geist and Ivar Skarland. Dave also ended up back in the military, in the Army, due to a new law that required two years of military service to be served due to the Korean War. Eventually, the law was adjusted and he only had to serve one year because of his prior service during World War II. He talks about what he did for his year in the Army, building a small cabin on weekends, and then going to work for the federal government after being discharged. He worked for the territorial Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife technician on caribou, and then as a wildlife biologist in Petersburg for deer management. He knew Sigurd T. Olson, Sigurd F. Olson's son, and even worked with him for a little bit. He also met his wife while he was stationed at Petersburg and got married within a year of meeting her. He also had issues with loggers concerning bears, and even set up a study involving Fish and Wildlife and the Forest Service to look at the numbers of bears on Admiralty Island. Dave also shares a few exciting stories while doing the bear research.

KAREN BREWSTER: Today is February 20, 2014 and this is Karen Brewster and Dave Klein continuing talking about Dave's life. And last time we were talking about your work on your master's degree at University of Alaska Fairbanks. And I had a couple questions: one thing you talked about was doing fieldwork solo.

DAVE KLEIN: For what?

KAREN BREWSTER: Doing fieldwork as a solo person. I'm wondering if you can talk a little bit more about that and what that was like. And pros and cons.

DAVE KLEIN: Sure, okay. Are we on – schedule? Okay. Yeah, it was pretty standard at that time. We didn't have radio contact like we have now with cell phones or even satellite radios. And even emergency locator beacons didn't come into play until much later. And there was very little money to support the graduate programs at the university. Or to support any kind of wildlife work. And so we did have the advantage in Alaska of aircraft were coming in and playing a major role. So you could get brought out in the field and dumped off and when you did, you made a schedule to be picked up at a certain time. And then you were on your own, so you might be there for five days or something like that. You're on your own and you had to plan accordingly. And there was -- I don't know why it came into being, but early we didn't have any radio contact. Then later on

we had some kind of a deal that we could contact planes going overhead in an emergency. I forget what that was called.

KAREN BREWSTER: It's an Air – No, Land to Air Emergency something.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, but never used those things. And, of course, you never want to use the other kinds that we have nowadays. And sometimes you don't ever use them.

KAREN BREWSTER: The emergency locator beacon?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, at least you have them and you can rely on them and that gives you a feeling of security. But we never -- this was sort of just like we knew that the old miners and prospectors, and trappers, they didn't have these kinds of things when they were up there by themselves doing their thing. And this was Alaska. The way of life in Alaska. And so I, for me, I felt confident because of my own experiences in the field and as a boy scout, and -- I felt confident. I felt self-confidence. And my supervisors learned that I had this capability of working on my own, and had the confidence to do it, and so we did it. And that was the way most of the fieldwork was done in those days. And so sometimes you were with -- 'cause someone else was available to go with you. Sometimes that was important because you were -- in the summertime was light 24 hours a day and you're making observations on caribou behavior and movement. Well, somebody has to get -- an observer has to get some sleep. So you had to take turns sleeping and working together that way. And it's always nice to have someone with you, so you can share camp responsibilities and support one another in what you're doing. And be satisfying to talk over things when it was necessary.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you ever run into any problems when you were out there?

DAVE KLEIN: Never problems that I thought were insurmountable by myself. Or the problems might be the plane didn't come on time, and you didn't know why it didn't come on time. It might be because -- usually meant that the weather wasn't suitable for the plane to come from Fairbanks, if they were in Fairbanks or other parts of the state, to fly into the area where -- to pick me up. Because you had to have reasonable weather, and frequently the pickup spots were where rivers or small lakes -- you had to have reasonable weather, too. And the pilot had to think about, not only picking you up, but getting back as well. And so there's always that question. There's a great poem. I think I can think of the author, maybe. He was a biologist. One of the earliest biologists in Alaska. Who was an educated guy. He had an equivalent to about master's degree level, which was unusual at that time. And he had aspirations to be a writer. He lived in Juneau for a while where the -- that was the headquarters. And I'm still not pulling up his name, but at any rate, he wrote this poem about waiting for the plane, which is really a clever one. And of course it's written from the perspective of say a prospector that had been dropped off for the summer and then the pilot was going to come and pick him up. And it was like, the pilot was the only one that knew so he had to assume the pilot hadn't crashed and was going to come. And then you're sitting on the sandbar waiting for the plane, and the mosquitoes are buzzing around and why hasn't Slim come. He probably

got drunk in this Native village and is drunk or he'd forgotten completely about this. And he goes on rambling about this in the prose. And then finally, "Aw, is that him? No, it's just a mosquito buzzing." And then another one, "No, it's the tea kettle. It's -- taken off the stove. That's not the plane." And finally the plane comes. "That was good ole Slim, I knew he would come." It's an excellent one. Ah, it's almost there. The name of the author. But any rate, I've got a copy of that.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you planned for extra days just in case?

DAVID KLEIN: You were always planning to go as light as possible, because you had to end up usually packing stuff. So yeah, you had basics, which provided a lot of calories, but not necessarily nutritionally designed, like rice. Not modern rice, quick cooking, but regular rice that had more calories per unit weight. And you had a few other things that you tried to make them last. Like you might have some raisins, and you might have some dried meat or like, salmon steaks were great if you could get them. And cheese, if you had some, or sausage. Things that were packed with calories and some nutrition in terms of protein, fat, and carbohydrates. And then you might have planned to have some survival gear to live off the land. That meant a fishing tackle of some kind, fishing line, depending on where you were. And you carried a gun for bear protection, which you could shoot ground squirrels, or marmots, or porcupines. All of which I did on occasion, if I was running short of food. And you couldn't shoot game species that were -- the season wasn't open, then we didn't consider that option. In the summertime particularly when you're out there. But you had these other things, though. You might get a chance to kill, oh, a grouse, for example, or a hare. Sometimes I did that when the plane was late. But when the plane was late, you couldn't leave the general area where the plane was going to come, because you didn't know when they were going to come. So you fished the local area and maybe got one or two grayling in a little tiny stream. And you realized there were only one or two in the stream and if you got one, you could still try for the other one, but it would be becoming very wise. And you might luck out getting a snowshoe hare. And they had a little bit of rice left, and so you could make a reasonable meal. Sometimes you were staying in a -- there was a cabin available, but -- and there was a cache. But usually -- the cache was often locked, but even if it wasn't locked you didn't want to take any food out of the cache because the people -- they wanted there to be a little bit of food left over in the cabin. It was usually rice or oatmeal or something like that. And there was usually a note even, saying that you, you know, help yourself to anything that was left over there. But mostly, they didn't leave food in the cabin because the bears. It might be an attraction to bears to get in there. So usually cabins didn't -- that were available to you, were not available for food, not a source for food.

KAREN BREWSTER: Whose cabins were these?

DAVID KLEIN: There were old trappers and prospectors, mainly. And sometimes we had permission from them to use the cabin when we're there in the summertime, hiking into them and what. And they would tell us what was there and would want us -- would say, "Feel free to use anything, but replace it." Which was a standard procedure.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you didn't have any close calls or scary moments, or big adventure stories in your fieldwork? You make it sound all so ho-hum.

DAVID KLEIN: No, it wasn't ho-hum. It was, like, for me at that age, it was just a challenge that made me want to be in Alaska. That was part of being in Alaska, the challenge of living in the environment relatively dependent upon yourself and not on other people. And being able to look after yourself. And if that meant spending a little time on a stream trying to catch a grayling or two, and that was all part of it. And eating a ground squirrel once or twice, because you didn't have enough food to go along or the plane was late. But often the plane was late when the blueberries were ripe. So yeah, you could spend your time feeding on blueberries. The bears did it, no reason why we couldn't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, when you were climbing around these mountains looking at sheep and goats, that sounds kind of risky behavior.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I, fortunately, when I got started on that mountain work on the Kenai, I went out with the refuge manager, Dave Spencer, who had had a lot of mountain experience. And growing up in the Rockies, I think he was -- And he was a good mountain skier. And so I learned how to use crampons and ice axes, to a certain extent. Although, you generally didn't learn too much, you just thought you were secure if you had them. And I remember walking across a snow -- an avalanche shoot, which was loaded with snow and everything else was melted on either side and I didn't have crampons with me then. I did have the ice axe. And I slipped and went sliding down. And then I had to learn how to use the ice axe to slow myself. Well, I did that because I thought about it and I stopped before I got to a rocky area. And it was pretty exciting, because you try it the wrong way with the sharp point down in the snow. It goes in there fine, but it doesn't -- it's not a brake. You have to put the broad side down and then put your weight on it. And then you came to a stop, or at least I did. And then -- Well, that was quite a learning experience. I should have practiced that before I went out into the mountains. And that's generally the way we were though, in those days. And I didn't want to challenge myself too much on rock climbing and that. I was interested in the biology of these creatures and hoped I could get by without learning all these extra skills. And for the most part, I did. I tried to minimize risks up to a point. Sometimes I'd get challenged to go to the top of a mountain just because I was close to the top of a mountain. And then suddenly, I realized oh, I was pushing myself beyond my capabilities. And I may have gone up anyway and then got to the top and had a nice view and come down. But I never was interested in mountain climbing per se, because I'd lost interest as soon as there was no -- beyond the life zone. Beyond the vegetation, the plants and animals. Then I lost interest in climbing mountains, even though my school buddies were climbing Denali and that was a challenge, but I didn't want to go that way.

KAREN BREWSTER: So can you think about your fieldwork, well, this is maybe beyond grad school, but when there were successes and when there were failures in your fieldwork?

DAVID KLEIN: Most of the failures were related to bad weather. And obviously you're frustrated if you had the clouds came down and you're supposed to be counting mountain sheep, mountain goats, and females and young relationship and you couldn't do it. And if the clouds hung down there -- Generally, I can't remember when it was totally fogged out by that. And maybe a couple of days at a time. And then I remember a big storm when I was in the White Mountains that -- I had a little pup tent and it had a floor in it fortunately, because the tent would have blown away. It was a super storm in the middle of July or something. And it was probably -- I was probably in an exposed area, and it just went on for hours and I was just -- you're inside. And it wasn't raining too hard. It was raining a little bit and so I was relatively dry, because I had the tent over me, but the tent would have blown away. And it blew down. And the only thing you can do there is just lay down, spread yourself out to keep the tent from flapping too much. And then finally, the storm subsided and got out, and it had rained a lot, and it was a nice world again.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what did your parents think when you decided you were coming up to Alaska, going to graduate school up here? I know you'd been here before, but that was a short-term.

DAVID KLEIN: My father had died when I was in the Navy after high school. And that was about in 1946, I think, he died. And my mother wasn't -- my mother was, let's say concerned, as a mother should be, that I was going so far away into a country where, yeah, there would be adventures and risks. But she understood that as a young man that I was attracted to this kind of adventure. And she understood me well enough, because I had -- growing up, I did adventurous things, too. And both my father and mother were concerned for my well-being, but they also wanted me to think broadly about how I might fit into the world. And they were aware quite early on that I was oriented towards the outdoors and towards nature, and toward the natural environment, and also towards agriculture and farming, to renewable resource living rather than any kind of industrial activities. Although my father was a machinist and worked that way, but he was also definitely involved and loved nature and was an environmental conservationist himself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did your mom ever come up and visit you up here?

DAVID KLEIN: Yes, she did. She was up, I think, twice. Once when I lived in Juneau and I was working there for the -- that was just right after statehood and I was working for the Department of Fish and Game. Had transferred there and had been working in Petersburg before under the federal government during territorial days. So she came and spent the summer. And she spent a few weeks -- a couple of weeks with us. And then my family was young then, two children, and we got out on the water quite a bit, fishing. My mom loved to fish and so we got out fishing a few times. And it was a nice visit. And then she came once after I had -- we'd moved to Fairbanks and I was Wildlife Unit leader on the faculty and lived on Miller Hill. And she stayed with us again for a couple of weeks. And we toured her around a little bit the regional area and out the Chena Hot Springs and areas where -- I think we even went fishing once with her, too. She's interested and loved fishing.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's interesting, she liked fishing.

DAVID KLEIN: She loved plants, too. She always wanted a greenhouse, and we didn't quite have that, but we had lots of gardens. And she was always very active in gardening and indoor plants, house plants, as well. And she definitely influenced me about wildflowers and nature and botanical aspect of nature.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, all that talk about your work on your masters and coming to UAF for grad school, has all been the school work and the fieldwork, and what about fun? You must have done things -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: What about what?

KAREN BREWSTER: Fun.

DAVID KLEIN: Funds?

KAREN BREWSTER: Fun, did you do things for fun, recreation? You didn't just study and do fieldwork all the time.

DAVID KLEIN: The amazing thing about my whole life is that I've enjoyed fieldwork. It's about as much fun as you can get as an individual. When it came to sharing it with family, yeah, camping was still the major things that were important to my life. And with students, as well. And I did a lot of field trips, organized a lot of field trips for students. Some of them were not related to any specific course or training, but they were related to my responsibility I felt in helping them how to learn to live in the wild, because some of their thesis research was in the wild. And that included both in the summer, as well as in the winter. Winter in the Arctic, as well. And for my family, it was somewhat similar, we did ski trips in the wintertime, some of us. And when I could get the family together, because the kids, by the time they were pre-teens and teens, they were busy with school activities. But yeah, generally, we could do that and then we decided to build -- get a lot out at Quartz Lake. Build a log cabin, which was a family project. And we spent time up there swimming and building the cabin and enjoying the environment. And it was often sometime, not as much my son there, because he was in boy scouts and staying in campouts around Birch Lake. But he played a major role in helping to drag the logs for the cabin and carry the wood up for the cabin. And, yeah, he was out there a lot of times with us, just the whole family. Swimming was important for all of them, and all of us in the family, in the lake. And we didn't do much fishing, but we did a lot of swimming and some hiking. And in the wintertime, winter activities they grew into skiing later.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was thinking about when you were in graduate school, what you and your fellow students did for entertainment in Fairbanks?

DAVID KLEIN: We didn't have a lot of free time, because we're -- In the summertime, we're working for usually the federal government at that time, yeah, on wildlife related

studies. So I worked on these mountain sheep counts, but also I worked with some caribou composition counts, and in the Nelchina area. And when we came back on campus, in between these field deals, yeah, what did we do? We didn't have too much time before we'd be out on another one. And in those periods we sort of socialized around campus. We never had a lot of money to go out and there was no place to go out and spend it close by. To go downtown was the closest place you could go to get a beer. And we, unless we had a vehicle available, which we didn't generally, you had to walk into town. And there were one or two bars, which we thought were reasonable for us to go to, 'cause we were concerned about some of these bars were not safe places for students to go that didn't have anything to be ripped off from. And we didn't want to get into brawls and we didn't want to get drunk. We couldn't afford it. But we did like an occasional beer. I remember making one or two excursions to Ester where you could get this beer that -- I forgot what it was called, Brewster or something. No, it wasn't Brewster. Bulldog, I think, that had slightly higher alcohol content. And we could only afford to buy one beer each. But we got up there. We might have got a ride. And we'd do occasional things like that, but there were things on campus, too, like there were -- being invited to dinners by the wives of our faculty members. That were really good about that, for us grad students. And then if one of the students was going out to do a project, there might be a chance for us to go along and help out because then they had a vehicle, university vehicle or a Wildlife Unit vehicle, and we'd go out with them. Ed Waas, who was working on a grayling project out at Salcha. And that was quite a trip on the gravel road then. You didn't just whip up there and whip back again like you can do now on a good paved road. Or sometimes it was somebody working on out the Taylor Highway, and we'd make it into a several day trip. And it might coincide with hunting season so we could maybe, if we're lucky, get a caribou or a moose. But we always harvested other things like, we were all pretty ardent hunters and we'd harvest grouse, spruce grouse, and ruffed grouse, and ptarmigan, and fish if they're available. But mainly was exploring and seeing new country. I mean, that was part of being in Alaska. Fairbanks isn't representative of the state of Alaska. And so if we had a chance to get out on the Taylor Highway or we worked as -- the federal government wildlife management program under state, under territorial days, they operated checking stations on the Steese Highway. And so they would employ us at a very low wage, but it was good training for us to go out and work at these checking stations. It was kind of made by a building, their trailer there. And we'd pitch a tent for sleeping or maybe you could sleep in the trailer if it was suitable, adequate. And then you'd interact with hunters and it was good experience for us. But we'd have some free time and the free time was hiking and hunting or getting to see the country and enjoying it. That was mostly in the fall during caribou hunting season.

KAREN BREWSTER: Tell me more about these checking stations. What were you checking, you were checking for permits?

DAVID KLEIN: The checking stations were where all the hunters technically were required to stop. So there were a lot of signs along the highway saying, "Stop at the checking station." And then they would get instructions on both where they could hunt legally and what the regulations were. We were refreshing them in their memory, and

enlightening them. But then to check them as they went in, and then to check them when they come out. So you wanted the same hunters to stop when they came out, because you had this information of who went in, and even if they didn't get anything, you wanted them to stop and tell us because the wildlife management agency then in territorial days, they wanted to know hunter success. And so how many hunters were in an area and what their success was, and what the sex and age ratio of the harvest, etc., etc., etc. And we were often collecting things like lower jaws for aging the animals, and also sometimes stomach samples, or mainly that, I guess. And from the hunters – and, of course, that was voluntary on their part, but they were informed of why we were going to do it. So part of it was education of the hunters as well about the kind of studies that we're involved in. And it was -- while it was education for us, it was more important that they educate the hunters as to why we wanted to know the age of the animals harvested, why we wanted to know what the sex ratio was harvested, etc., and what the success ratio of the hunters were. And so that was a good experience, but it was usually in combination with -- the military would assign someone to work at the check station, too. Their so called military game wardens. And they often had military equipment like tracked vehicles, like weasels. And so they could go out and check the more remote hunters, especially if they were military people, be sure they had proper licenses etc., which were subsidized. Those licenses for military was only about twenty-five cents, but they wanted to keep track of what they were doing. And so we got to join up with them. Frequently, get out in the backcountry with them with their tracked weasel, for example. So you get to know the country better and enjoy it and appreciate it. And so it was like, all of this was just nirvana. I never expected Alaska would be such a wonderful place for me with my interests to be present. And so like recreational activities on campus, maybe, yeah, playing ping pong, and you could socialize a little bit with females that way. And eating in the cafeteria. But it was not the kind of campus you'd view within the terms of the present perspective. And plus the fact, we were grad students, and had served in the military, and were a bit older, our focus was on getting the degree and learning process then. And so we were good students in that regard, but we also had good contacts with some, few upper division students in biology and wildlife. And also anthropology, quite a few, especially females. So some of the females that I hung out with were in the cafeteria when you're eating your meals, were George Schaller's future wife, Kay Morgan, she was in anthropology. Then there was -- I'm trying to think the wife of Governor Hammond.

KAREN BREWSTER: Bella.

DAVID KLEIN: Bella Hammond. Bella, she wasn't Bella – I forgot her last name then. She wasn't married yet, but she was already engaged to Jay Hammond who had graduated a year before I got there, with a degree in biology. And so she was one of them that we ate dinner together with. There were about three or four women that were all seniors, I think, and here were these older males, veterans, graduate students that were I'm sure attracted to them, but it was mutual. They were the kind of women we could be attracted to. But we knew that Bella was not available, but she was just a nice person -- such a nice person, we enjoyed her presence.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, did you have dances on campus?

DAVID KLEIN: There were dances. We weren't big on that kind of socializing. None of us. Yeah, they had the standard kind of dances. We didn't get much involved in that, partly because we came there as graduate students. We came there and hadn't come through the undergraduate program. There were a few of the undergraduates that we were close to, too, that we interacted with. And there was a Wildlife Society, or wildlife chapter, of the university, which was very popular. We'd put on a game dinner and with all kinds of wildlife that we'd harvested. But key people who attended were Otto Geist and Ivar Skarland. We had a good relationship with them. We were taking some of Otto's courses like Alaska Natives, but they sort of befriended us grad students and so we often hung out in evenings. I wouldn't say hung out, we made a stop at the coffee shop that would usually be part of the cafeteria or something open in the evening for coffee. And you'd pay extra for that, for the cup of coffee. And Otto and Ivar, both bachelors, would usually show up and we'd join the table with them. And that was fascinating. They would tell us all these interesting stories. And they also hosted us. I remember one dinner, at the old Skarland cabin where Skarland was living. And he and Otto put the dinner together and they invited us wildlife grad students. And that was very entertaining. They were such good storytellers about their experience working together in the field. And Otto had a great sense of humor. By the way, I'm having an interview next week with Mareca Guthrie. She wanted to interview me about Otto Geist and how much I know about him.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nice. That's good. That's a good idea.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, I think so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, on the hunting check stations, did the hunters cooperate?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, for the most part they did. And they sort of thought -- you know, they were -- it was presented to them as important and a requirement. It wasn't -- they didn't have to stop, if they didn't want to. And it was advertised in the local papers as such. But it was interesting, because I remember one -- I wasn't on duty at the time, but one of my school buddies was. And he's out talking to this hunter, and he has sort of like a station wagon, an old jeep station wagon or something. And he had been hunting and they were coming back and suddenly ka-bang. This shotgun inside went off and shot a hole through the side of this station wagon, just missing this student and the hunter. And it went off because the dog, a good retriever in there, was getting excited and had stepped on the trigger of the shotgun, which shouldn't have been loaded, but was. So there was this risk of all of the careless hunters, and careless use of firearms. And so there were potential accidents. And then we often took weights, if they wanted to allow us to take a weight on a -- if they had a whole caribou. We had a big tripod and we could take the weights. And some hunters were very cooperative and they wanted to contribute something to help understand the situation. But when we told them about collecting stomach samples, rumen samples, and how to do it and we provided them with the plastic bags and everything. They usually -- when they brought the samples out they said, "You didn't tell us how bad smelling this stuff was." And you'd get it on your fingers. They

already knew that if they got a gut shot on a caribou, yeah, you hit the rumen and it can damage a lot of meat.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm surprised that they even had the -- don't you gut it out in the field and leave that out there?

DAVID BREWSTER: Yeah, well, they would normally leave it out there, but we wanted them to take a -- we provided them with Ziploc whirl packs and they could put a sample, not very much, you know, like --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, this is when you stopped them on their way out?

DAVID BREWSTER: Yeah, when they came out, we gave these to them on the way in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, right.

DAVID BREWSTER: And we didn't say they had to do it, we said, "Would you collect a sample for us?" And they said, yeah, they'd try to. And so when they came up, they'd bring it back out. Yeah, they were mostly cooperative and helpful in this. There were some that were probably potential violators of the law and didn't want to risk exposing themselves, but we didn't make a -- we counted the numbers they had, the animals, of course. And so the check stations were important in preventing violations of the law, as well. So check stations, my view, were good because even though they were costly in terms of human hours to operate them, and the problems with not everybody was cooperative, but they were informative to the public. And that to me, has been a short-coming in wildlife management is informing the public as to what is involved in wildlife management. And that's where I've had problems with Fish and Game in the past and still do, that there's not enough information going out as to what's being done to learn about wildlife habitat relationships in relation to management. And we need to get more -- be more effective informing hunters about all this. So then trying to get hunters to cooperate in management and seeing -- rather than just seeing us as game wardens. So that was part of it, too. I mean we were not -- We didn't have enforcement authority as students working out there. If someone had a violation, and if there happened to be a game warden with us, well, they were the ones -- but all we could do is, say, take all the information and pass it on so that they could be checked again by the game warden. But we didn't have any enforcement authority, law enforcement authority.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so where was the check station that you worked at? Or you worked at different ones?

DAVID KLEIN: There were several. I did one on the Steese Highway and that was like about just when you're getting up into the alpine zone, so about 76 mile or something like that. And then on the Taylor Highway, I operated a check station there that was close to Mount Fairplay. Once you get a ways up into where you're liable to get into caribou. Up in there. And these were, you know, these were like house trailers that belonged to the state or the territory, and we camped in those mostly.

KAREN BREWSTER: So anyplace else besides the Steese and the Taylor?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, they were on -- for hunting in the Nelchina area, there were check stations, but I didn't work on any of those.

KAREN BREWSTER: You just worked at the stations --

DAVID KLEIN: It was mostly any of the road access major hunting areas, then it was the case. It was the Steese and the Taylor Highway here that were check stations were important. And south of the Alaska Range were probably on -- the Denali Highway there were two check stations. And also on -- well the Parks Highway in those days didn't exist.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was thinking the Haul Road [Dalton Highway] but that didn't exist either.

DAVID KLEIN: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: This was all before statehood. This is when it was territorial?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so why did they discontinue using them?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, then a lot of reasons. One is by statehood there were more road systems and then it was the cost too of setting up check stations. It costs money. And they didn't have a very big budget, and so do you put more money into check stations or do you try to live without them and do more studies on the animals in the wild. And what's the cost/benefit ratio for the state or the territory in operating check stations? How important were they for management? And it was complicated, too, because I know check stations on the Richardson Highway, some of those were designed for sheep hunters, primarily, but also caribou. Sheep and caribou, mainly, but also moose. But mainly it was sheep and caribou.

KAREN BREWSTER: And the ones, on Steese and the Taylor, where you were, that was for caribou?

DAVID KLEIN: Mainly, but it included moose and also mountain sheep if you hiked off the Steese a long ways. It could be moose like over in Nome Creek in the hills and mountains in those areas. Cache Mountain and those areas. But it was mainly for the caribou. But we recorded information on how many grouse or ptarmigan they killed, etc., etc. Anything that they had harvested.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah, as Alaska has grown, there's more roads and people flying.

DAVID KLEIN: In that era, though, of the territorial days and early statehood, there was much more emphasis on management based upon harvest statistics. So you wanted good harvest statistics. And they give you an indication of trends in populations and they were frequently the -- harvest statistics required only one or two technical people in the office in Anchorage putting this stuff together and summarizing it. And there used to be very good harvest statistics available, and those are still available for comparison with the present time. So yeah, that was all very important.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then it shifted to doing more the actual field biology studies of the animals instead of relying on the harvest statistics?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, at that period, in terms of management of wildlife under federal government, the focus was heavy on one -- they didn't have a lot of biologists. They had more game wardens and there were predator control agents killing wolves with poison and cyanide guns. But these people were all important, because they collected information on wildlife, incidental to what they were doing. Sometimes it was biased by what they were doing and their interests. But the biologists were sort of newcomers, so we're finally getting some science into the whole operation. And the biologists initially were -- they were -- the rest of the staff were skeptical. The game men and what about the need for biological studies. But gradually it became apparent that we needed those studies. But the biologists initially were assigned to a specific species, so there was someone assigned to moose who was based in Anchorage, but it was state-wide for moose. Someone for caribou was primarily in Fairbanks supervising, There might have been people working for them, but they were the supervisor. Their job was moose versus caribou, mountain sheep, and then in southeast Alaska, deer, and that was about it. Then they also had responsibilities for other wildlife, but there weren't biologists hired, especially at that time, to look after, say, furbearers or certainly not non-game species. But for furbearers -- And nobody working specifically on usually bears or other carnivores like wolves and furbearers, coyotes. Predator and Rodent Control had some concern about these, because they were poisoning wolves and coyotes and were not supposed to be killing bears in the process. So there was some focus there on that, but it wasn't -- the biologists weren't working specifically on this. And there was one law enforcement agent who was an outstanding guy, based in Fairbanks, Ray Wolford. Who - - long-time game warden, but he was very understanding and knowledgeable about wildlife use. And he was -- really started collecting of subsistence hunting data. So how important was harvest by Native people. Native people were primarily ignored. And the attitude was we exist for these sport hunters. And they're the ones that are paying for our positions, frequently of biologists, because they were paying -- sport hunters were paying this excise tax on sporting arms and ammunitions and that was made available to the territory and the state on the basis of population, hunting licenses sold, etc. Whereas the other people like the game wardens and predator control agents were supported through the federal budget exclusively. And they responded to requests for reducing wolves out on the Seward Peninsula, because of the reindeer herding. And coyotes were getting out there. And then out on the Aleutian Islands where there were sheep ranchers and the foxes were killing newborn sheep, domestic sheep. And so they'd go out and poison and

shoot foxes. In southeast Alaska, they were killing wolves to help the deer population, when there was an over population of deer and not enough human hunters to control the deer population. So they were killing wolves and using poison baits. And they had to be very careful, because they could only do this in the winter when bears were in hibernation and they were supposed to go out and pick up all of the strychnine baits in seal blubber. They were killing seals to use as bait. Which seals were not protected at that time, and in fact, shortly after statehood, they put a bounty on seals because they were competing with salmon fishermen.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay. So now let's get us back to more chronological where we were going. So you completed your master's degree in what year?

DAVID KLEIN: That was in 1953. And then the last couple of years as undergraduate, or year as undergraduate and the two years as I was a master's, I had a [military] deferment, because I was suddenly -- with a new draft law under, I think, it was the Nixon administration, when we're at war, so called war in Korea. And so that new draft law required two years of military service, whereas when I enlisted in the Navy right out of high school during the Second World War, I had enlisted and then six months after I was in, the war was over. And so I was -- I got out of the -- I had to stay in a full year, because I enlisted for the duration of the war plus a year. And so I thought I was draft free, but then when the Korean War came along, and I was an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut, I realized I had to get a deferment, educational deferment, if I wanted to finish up my degree. And I did. And then I got another extension to do the master's degree at the University of Alaska. But then after --

KAREN BREWSTER: So you'd served a year, but then they changed the rules and said, you had to have a minimum of two years? So that's why you -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: On the new draft law during the Korean War said exactly that, yeah. And so they didn't acknowledge --

KAREN BREWSTER: So even if you'd already served you --

DAVID KLEIN: Well, if you served under a different law and a different -- then they passed a new law. I understand how that came about. What bugged me at the time was, I thought I had to serve for five years in the inactive. It was just a paper agreement. When I was discharged from the Navy, I had to serve for five years in an inactive Reserve. So I could be called up during that five year period. But it was more than a five-year period before we got involved into -- in Korea. And by that time, I was no longer covered by that so I couldn't be called up by the Navy. And they passed new draft laws requiring two years, and I only had one year of active duty --

KAREN BREWSTER: And you were --

DAVID KLEIN: -- in the Navy.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- at what age were you at this point?

DAVID KLEIN: So I was, let's see --

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause I would think that active -- that that new law and the two years would apply to new 18 year old men who were required to sign up, but if you'd already been in the military you should've been free and clear.

DAVID KLEIN: So I would have been twenty-six or seven, something like that. But I wasn't married and I was a student under the GI Bill, as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: But anyway, so they called -- you had to go do your military service?

DAVID KLEIN: I had to get a deferment until I finished my master's. I might have been able to get a deferment to go on to BC [British Columbia], but I didn't want to do that. I didn't think I would gain anything by doing that in terms of education. And I figured, well, I just have to face up to the facts. What I didn't -- by this time I was essentially a conscientious objector. And I looked into that possibility, because I didn't feel that we should be in Korea, in that war, which was totally different than my attitude when I went into the Navy in the Second World War. So I did learn that -- and when I inquired about being a conscientious objector, they said my religious background didn't support it. Which I agreed. So I then learned that if I was -- my draft board had been transferred to Alaska when I came to the University of Alaska. So if I was drafted in Alaska, I learned that you would very likely not leave Alaska, unless you went to some school or something for special training. So in other words, if you're drafted in Alaska, you couldn't go to one of these schools to learn Russian, which I -- that was attractive to me, 'cause if you did that they could do anything they wanted to you after that. But I didn't want to -- I didn't believe we should be in Korea, and I was becoming more of a pacifist. So I finally felt the only alternative was to be drafted in Alaska and tough it out, which I did. And so that was after I completed my master's degree. And so I was drafted then in early summer into the Army. And I went to basic training at Fort Richardson. And then after the basic training, I was -- I think they assigned me then to Fort Wainwright, which was called Ladd Field at the time, in the 4th Infantry. And I don't know whether it was before I moved there or immediately afterwards, I was contacted and wanted to know if I wanted to be a military game warden, because of my experience and training. And they said it was a good deal, because you get to -- the commanding officer then was an ardent sport hunter and you would get to go in the field with him and do -- you know, you'd get special treatment. I said I didn't want to do that, because I realized -- already had learned that there were violations that were being incurred by the military officers wanting special treatment for hunting big game. And I didn't want to be involved in that. And so I said no, but then they asked me if I wanted to be in the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon for the 4th Infantry, which they wanted people with outdoor experience and the kind of training we had in graduate school in field experience. And it was a small unit of about 25 people and one Lieutenant in charge. And it's like scouts platoon, you go out in front of the forces and try to figure out what the military is doing.

It's very risky and not good life expectancy if you're on the front. But if you're going to stay in Alaska I thought it would be great. And their concern was, they wanted people with this kind of training in case the Chinese ultimately got involved in the Korean War and invaded Alaska, because it would be the closest place and they needed people. And they had a dog kennel with two dog teams, and canoes and river boats, and jeeps, and skis and snowshoes and it was -- Sounded great to me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: If I had to be in. And I really didn't want to be in, but if I had to be in. And a lot of the others in the scouts platoon were -- several of them were from the university, students. Some -- Several -- about three Natives. One of them managed the dog kennel and I worked with them, and I just liked the situation. And I never regretted agreeing to go with them. And then once I was in there, there was a young Lieutenant in charge of us and he was pretty understanding, sharp guy. And he would -- those of us who had some graduate training, I mean he took advantage of that. I had a portable, an old portable typewriter that my father had had that I brought with me in the military, and I'd type out stuff. And he immediately saw that I could do that, and then he assigned me to write up field excursions that we did that were training exercises with dog teams. And that was just great. There were two dog teams and four of us, two people to each team. And we'd skijor behind the teams when it was good going. And when it was no good going, we were out in front with snowshoes breaking trail. And it was nirvana experience. And we did a nice trip from Tanana to Fairbanks, and then I wrote up that trip. It was a learning -- we stopped in Old Minto and took notes on what was available there if the military had to be in there in the future. Like was there any power plant, anything, electric generator, was there any place for a gathering place. A community where the troops could meet with the villagers or even sleep. How many cabins and where they were. Mapping the villages. So it was good training for me, even though at the time I thought I shouldn't be doing this, someone else should be doing it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I say, at least you had some fun going out on --

DAVID KLEIN: I had fun, and I've been lucky that way. I mean, I get these jobs and people lay something on your shoulders and you realize they do it because they think you can handle it. And if you do handle it, then you prove yourself. And you feel good about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so how many years then were you in the Army?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I was in for two years. And I was a little pissed about that, because I checked with -- and I even wrote a letter to Senator Bartlett, I think, complaining a bit about this. And feeling that my previous year in the Navy should count. And the response I got was not from him, it was from the military saying that, well, this was the new law. That you have to -- there's no ands, ifs, or buts. Two years that relates to the Korean War. But after I was in for ten months, finally this notice appeared on the bulletin board that they were recognizing previous military service, so I got -- I had to

stay in only one year. I didn't know it until after ten months in there, but it was -- yeah finally, they did acknowledge this and I appreciated that. I never knew whether it was a result of my writing a letter to Bartlett or whether it was because the Korean War was already starting to scale down.

KAREN BREWSTER: But, so you never went over to Korea? Your time was in Alaska?

DAVID KLEIN: I never went there, and I didn't have any real complaints about that. And the training, you know, I saw it as -- when I went in, especially in basic training, that it was a challenge. I'm here older, quite a bit older than the average draftee. So immediately they assigned me to be a platoon leader, because I had all these young kids. I thought as young kids. That were just draft age. And here I was older. And they called me Doc, even though I didn't have any justification for that. And they respected me, too, maybe because of the way I behaved, but -- And there were some that were really extreme. You know, there were some that had real problems. And I felt good about the fact that -- and they probably appointed me patrol leader because, I think -- or team leader, because I could likely have this effect. And then I saw my interactions with the Sergeants that were over me as a challenge. How can I hold my self-respect and deal with these guys? And then after a while I begin to realize, yeah, there was one that was a tough problem, but the other one was great. I made a good friendship. He happened to be Filipino and he had a lot of war experience, and he became a good friend. The other guy, you were always on your guard, you know, don't let him think he's in control of you even though technically he does. And so I was beginning to learn about people, and how to live with people, and variations, and try to understand people. And it wasn't all that bad. And especially we got to do some nice trips. And riverboat trips and what -- and we had a lot of freedom when we were based here at Ladd Field. And we had, usually, a couple of open air jeeps and our Lieutenant in charge would say, "I want you guys to be physically fit. But I don't want to force you do to all these calisthenics and stuff. I want you to get out and be active, so take the jeep and go up there with your skis and go skiing or skijoring behind the jeep." Which we did. Which wasn't the safest thing to do, but we did that up on top of Cleary Summit. And he'd give us a pass to get out of the gate for this. And he treated us well. He said, "Don't, when you're on base, don't be seen just sitting around, or I'm going to have to -- they're going to come down on me and I'm going to have to put you out there picking up cigarette butts and stuff like that. If you've got free time, go to the swimming pool and go swimming or go to the library, but don't be seen just sitting around."

KAREN BREWSTER: So, now I'm confused. Were you in then for two years, or you were just in for your twelve months?"

DAVID KLEIN: Was drafted with -- at the time I thought I would be in for two years, but then after ten months they officially recognized that my previous year in the Navy as military experience, and I got out at the end of one year in the Navy. So I ended up with one year in the Navy and one year in the Army.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay. That's what I thought. Okay. I was going to ask you about the things you did for entertainment when you were in school here. I forgot to ask you, you mentioned skiing, were the cross country trails on campus in existence yet?

DAVID KLEIN: They were still in existence, but they weren't maintained. And I remember talking with Ivar Skarland and he told us about the history of the trails, but frankly I didn't -- I wasn't a skier then, I was a snowshoer. And the rest of the grad students -- the only skiing was downhill skiing on campus at that time. There was no cross-country team. And Ivar was aging and was no longer able to go out and use the trail system. But they were there. And there was a little bit of use in the late winter by locals for commuting and stuff, but virtually none. No grooming of the trails, no defined trails, etc. It wasn't until I came back from southeast Alaska and joined the faculty that I got into -- I'd started getting into some cross-country skiing in southeast Alaska, which isn't the greatest place. And so then when I got here, then I got into -- and then after I also went to Scandinavia. We did snowshoeing in the wintertime. And sometimes for recreation I'd just put on my snowshoes and go skiing down into the flats, which was that area behind the college, that's going toward --

KAREN BREWSTER: Like behind Beaver Sports and --

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, back into those wetland --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- those flats before Creamer's Field?

DAVID KLEIN: There were wetland areas, and, you know, if you went down there in the summertime you would need knee boots. In the wintertime, of course, everything's frozen up and you could go down there. And then you could read all this wildlife in the trails and stuff. There were mink, marten and, snowshoe hares and everything else there. And we could go there trapping or hunting. Not that we did do any trapping, but hunting. I did some trapping back in Connecticut, but we didn't do any there. But also, we were encouraged by the people at the museum, like Brina Kessel particularly, and then there was a new faculty member, to bring in specimens. Just seeing an animal wasn't good enough, you've got to shoot it and bring it in and they'll make a museum specimen out of it. I remember shooting a least weasel there once when I was down there grouse hunting, they had to do a lot of patchwork because I shot it with a shotgun, but I was pretty excited to see this tiny little, in the wintertime, little pure white weasel.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, with the little black tip on their tail. Or was it white?

DAVID KLEIN: A least weasel doesn't have it, it's all white. Now the next bigger one, more common one has -- is about this long and has black on the tip of the tail. Short tail weasel, I think it's called.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay. So after your year in the Army?

DAVID KLEIN: Okay, then I was discharged in the summertime. Early summer, beginning of summer.

KAREN BREWSTER: 1953?

DAVID KLEIN: Or maybe it was mid-summer. That would be '54, I think. '53, '54, or '55.

KAREN BREWSTER: You graduated, you said in '53.

DAVID KLEIN: So it would have been '54 that I got out. A year. And then, of course, I didn't -- I was here at Ladd Field, or Fort Wainwright. And I had maintained contact with the university, you know, because I still had buddies here on campus. And so if I got a pass I'd frequently go out there and hang out there. And also I built a log cabin down on Chena Small Tracts at that time. And I had a little help on peeling logs and stuff from my military buddies. And I built -- there I got the military surplus canvas and I built a tepee. And I would get a pass for a weekend and I'd go down and work on this cabin on one of these small tracts that you could get at that time.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you did that while you were in the military, you worked on that cabin?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. I was -- something I had wanted to do was to build a cabin, log cabin, but then I realized I had this time and that would probably be a good deal. I guess it's sort of an investment. And you had to -- you didn't have to live on the tract, I don't think. You had to build a suitable cabin, which is what I did. It wasn't like homesteading, although my friend, Lynn Hollis, the animal husbandry man, had said -- He encouraged me to homestead. There were 60 acres that were available in that area just on the base of Chena Ridge. Which I was tempted, but homesteading you had to make a commitment to clear a certain amount of land and plant it, etc., and live in the cabin. And I didn't. I mean, I was committed to my career of being a wildlife biologist and working for wherever they wanted me to go, so -- But the small tract was do-able. And Hollis did -- I mean he said you can use the tractor and trailer he had for hauling logs. And you can cut the logs on his land that he had homesteaded, which he was ultimately going to clear it and sell the timber, but he gave me the logs. And so I went there and hauled the logs, cut the logs and hauled the logs, and then I got some of my buddies to come and they helped peel the logs because they were cut and dried with the bark on. So they had to be -- use a draw knife. But they did that. That was really helpful. But mostly I did the building myself and it was a challenge to do it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you know how to build a log cabin?

DAVID KLEIN: Basically yeah. I built one up in Wild Lake when I first came.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's right.

DAVID KLEIN: But I also, I was a fast learner when it came to building and carpentry and stuff. And in fact, a challenge to use the tools you need to build a cabin, which are a little different, like a broad axe for flattening off the logs. And all this was because this was part of Alaska and Alaska's history, and I thought I wanted to do this. I want to -- I think I can do it and I want to do it. And here was a chance to do it, and once I had the thing it was an investment. I could either live in it -- that was the plan, of course, when I got out of the military. So when I got out of the military I immediately got a job, because I didn't have any income except the military. And I got a job as a wildlife technician working with the government, because it was still a territory and Fish and Wildlife Service. Doing, you know, joining teams that were doing caribou work, and some of them were students at the university and later students. And it was mostly caribou that I worked with, because it was fall and early winter. But I finished building the cabin during that time when I was not out in the field, which was most of the time. But I got it finished. And in the meantime, I was -- I don't know where I was living.

KAREN BREWSTER: How big of a cabin?

DAVID KLEIN: It was a pretty good size. It was about 20 by 24. And it was about as big as I could build with the kind of logs I had, which were good logs.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that's back in the time before power tools.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, I did it all by Swede saw, axe, and broad axe. And hand tools, drilling, and then driving the pins down through, all by hand. Yeah, that's the way that was done in the old days. The only improvement was I didn't use sphagnum between the logs. I used this rolled insulation. No, I don't think they even had the rolled, but you could cut it, the fiberglass insulation. And that was interesting, because in the fall, I'd lay that stuff down on these long logs and get ready to roll the other one in position, and the God damn red squirrel would be pulling it away to build nests. (Laughing) You had to be fast on that one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really. I wouldn't have thought -- I mean I know they pull it out once it's in there, but I didn't know they'd pull it before you got to the end.

DAVID KLEIN: Oh, it was so much easier. They grab and it came off in big strips.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's funny. So did you end up living in that cabin?

DAVID KLEIN: No, I never did. I put a barrel stove in there. A cheap barrel stove, so that I could go on finishing. I put the roofing on when it was really cold. And you had to put your hands around the smoke stack to warm them up, 'cause you couldn't handle nails and things unless you could do it with work gloves, but anything bigger than that weren't enough, and cotton gloves, and then you warm your hands up and go on. It was like it was getting 20 below or something and I was finishing off. And then I -- I don't think I built much more inside, but it had the windows and everything in. It was pretty much sealed. And then I got this offer for a position in Petersburg. A permanent position

as a biologist, which was, of course, my goal in life. Had been up to that time. And so I think I started right in late January, when it was like colder than hell here. And then I was able to -- I don't know whether I rented that cabin before I left or shortly after, but the housing problem was not good then, of course, with university for faculty and students. And so there was a young couple who he had just taken a position with the Cooperative Extension, and they heard about the cabin and wanted to rent it. And, of course, the rental would be very low, because all it had was this barrel stove in there and nothing else. And I said, "Yeah, you can rent it." And I forget what it was. Just a couple hundred bucks or something. "But feel free to build stuff in there, counters and stuff, and bring tables and do whatever you can." And so that worked out for several years. And then, I -- they moved, finally moved into some more upscale housing. And I rented it again to a cook at the military, a civilian cook at the military who had a big family and it went downhill from then. And he wasn't good at paying the rent. And finally the solution was he wanted to buy it and I said, "Well, it's probably the best thing." So he bought it. And he moved in some Quonset huts and stuff, because he had an expanding family of about four kids. And then he made this terrible mistake of trying to move things together and attached them to one another. And so instead of moving the Quonsets he moved the cabin and nearly destroyed it. You know, warped it all out of shape. And he got a bulldozer down there and dragged it over there. And then he still hadn't paid off -- But at any rate, I went down and visited him once when I came back here, and he said, "That was the worst thing I ever did, was to move that cabin. That was the only building of any value, and now I destroyed it." But he was -- he was a striving young person with a big family. Any rate, he did finally pay it off so then I was -- I got some benefit from -- at a time when I -- It wasn't very much money that I sold it for, but at least it was a time when we needed the money when I was building the place up on Miller Hill.

KAREN BREWSTER: So tell me about the job in Petersburg, what did you do there?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, there was a position with the Territorial Government for a wildlife biologist who would work mainly with deer management and deer studies. And a fellow that had been there was being transferred to Fairbanks, an upgrade, and he was going to take over management of the caribou. And Sig Olson, young Sig Olson. His father was Sigurd F. Olson, who wrote these outdoor books from the Lake of the Woods country. That's where he grew up. Young Sig Olson was Sigurd T. Olson and he was -- I never met his father, but he was a terrific guy. I worked with him. He had first been hired and placed in Ketchikan, which wasn't the right place for him. So they moved him up to Petersburg, which was better. He had a young wife and starting a family. He had been in the military. And so when I took the position, he stayed on for about a month and a half to help me get familiar with the position, etc. But I was still unmarried and he and his family just treated me wonderfully and sort of adopted me into the family for a while. And I got to work with him, which was great because we -- I could see what he had been doing and what the limitations were and what is the best way to go in the future. And he was just a top-notch guy. And so then when he left I took over and rose to the occasion, I guess. And loved it. And then that's -- I was there for -- When did I go down there?

KAREN BREWSTER: You said you started in late January. So I'm thinking of '55? If you were out of the military in summer of '54.

DAVID KLEIN: January of '55, yeah, that's right, I went down. So in '55, I went down there. And then, of course, I got into the community and this group of high school teachers, women, quickly adopted me. And then paired me off with my future wife, who was a teacher there, too. And so I got married in December of '55. So about a year, close to a year after I got there. So then started a family there and two of my --

KAREN BREWSTER: What was your wife's name?

DAVID KLEIN: Arlayne, A-R-L-A-Y-N-E. Knox. No her name then was Brown. Arlayne Brown.

KAREN BREWSTER: R-A – A --

DAVID KLEIN: A-R-L-A-Y-N-E.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay. And so what did you do? You were studying deer, right?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, my job was both management -- that meant interaction with hunters and stuff and getting harvest data and all that kind of stuff. But also to do environmental studies about the deer and habitat. And it was before large-scale logging, and clear-cut logging had started. And there was still -- there was selective logging the earlier days by people who -- hand loggers they were called. They were also troll fishermen, trappers, and people that loved to live that kind of lifestyle. Harvesting from the sea, living from the sea a lot, but also taking down the good spruces up on a slope where they could fall it so that it would slide right down into the water, and then they could tow it to the saw mill, and sell it for a few thousand bucks because there was a lot of wood in a big log. And, of course, you had to know how to do it right so it fell where you wanted it to, and you would be able to trim it then, and then set it up on skids so that it would -- You can let it slide down and wait for high tide so it would go into the water and then your boat could haul it away. It wasn't that easy, but these guys were very experienced. And it was selective logging, so they were only taking one here and one there and not having any significant impact environmentally on the deer or anything else. But then larger scale logging was being pushed and then the pulp mills established at Ketchikan and Sitka. And then Forest Service was pushing all this -- get this forest into production and forget about everything else, including the spawning streams and the deer and all the things that the Forest Service was supposed to be involved with. And it was like this old growth timber was just wasteful, because this wood is dying, these trees are dying, the old trees are dying. Well, what you do is clear cut and then get it all into second growth, and you get much more productivity of wood from the land that way, even though you're hammering everything else in the environment, especially the salmon and deer. But also hard on bears, because the loggers didn't like bears. And it was a challenging job for me because I frequently was at odds with Forest Service. And trying to argue that these old growth timber close to the beach was a wintering area under severe

winters. And if you cut that down, you're going to have massive starvation on deer in big snow depth years. And plus, these other aspects of the bears. And the bears, the grizzly, the brown bears on Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof, the fishermen didn't like them because they ate fish. They thought that they were -- because they were competing with them, they didn't like the bears. And some of these hand trollers had this reputation of trolling along and there'd be bears out on they beach, they'd just shoot it and just keep going along.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really?

DAVID KLEIN: Oh yeah. Whereas, also in the community, as part of the economy of the community, was guided hunting for people that wanted to come up from the Lower 48, mainly, to hunt trophy brown bears. And usually brown bears, sometimes black, but mainly brown bears. And those people were -- had big -- had good sized boats, that they went out with the hunters and they sometimes in the off season were fishermen and did other things. But they were respected, because they had to have a license through the Territorial Government. And they were important economically in the community, because food and everything was bought locally. And so they were -- they didn't want the bears to be randomly killed. The fishermen, the stupid fishermen didn't -- just thought anything that ate salmon should be killed. Eagles, bears, gulls, Dolly Varden, etc. Seals, yeah, the whole works. That was the way the world operated then. But I remember getting into a -- there had been a problem with one of the first logging operations in Admiralty, which later became a national monument. In southern Windfall Harbor, I think it was. A logging company got a sale with the Forest Service in there, and immediately they're complaining to the Territorial Fish and Wildlife about the bears. The bears are creating major problems. "We've got people, dependents, that are living in our camp and the bears are coming into the camp." Why are they coming into the camp? "Well, we don't have any good garbage disposal situation, yeah. But, we're there to log. The bears are preventing jobs for these people." You know how it goes. And they were logging right in the estuary of a stream, which was a spawning area for pink salmon And the bears aggregate there because of the salmon, too. And they wanted those bears out. And my job was wildlife, and so I contacted my supervisor in Juneau, who was a good guy, but he had to live with the Forest Service, too. And we were, you know this is Forest Service land, they call the shots. And I said, "This is unreasonable. I want to send this strong memo to the Regional Forester." And he said, "No," he said, "basically, he could be worse. We could have a worse guy than him." And finally he agreed that I could fly up to Juneau and he'd arrange a meeting for him and me to talk to the Regional Forester about this bear problem on Windfall Harbor on Southern Admiralty. And we went in and he was very polite, the Regional Forester, and I could see he was an intelligent guy. And I said, "This isn't working. The bears are a valuable resource." "Oh well," he said, "they're not all that valuable. The timber's much more valuable." You know, of course. And finally he agreed that they had a problem with the garbage disposal and they had to do a better job of the garbage disposal. Otherwise, they were the ones responsible for the bears being attracted there. And in the estuary he didn't think there was strong enough data, because the fisheries people hadn't produced strong enough data at the time. But it was generally understood by fisheries people and the fishermen and others and locals,

that yeah, this is damaging spawning habitat for the pink salmon. It was thought that the pink salmon were going up these streams rather to spawn, and they were spawning in the intertidal areas. And that was the logging areas where they dragged the logs back and forth and built the log rafts and then when high tide would come, they would float the log rafts and they could haul them away. And finally, he was getting a little pissed off and frustrated and finally, he said, "You've got to face up to the reality of this thing. I mean the future of this is logging. The future of this area is logging. And the bears are just going to have to go. They're not compatible with humans out there. They're not compatible with humans!" No matter -- And we made a case for guided bear hunts and all that, and so I -- we parted and my supervisor said, "Go ahead and write your memo. At least get it on the record." So I did. I don't think I have a copy. I might have it, but I got it on the record. And then the Forest Service finally came through and said, "Well, we'll split the cost with the Fish and Wildlife Service to do an estimate of the numbers of bears on different drainages on Admiralty Island. All on Admiralty." So they split the cost. They provided a boat and aircraft and we had a Fish and Wildlife boat and aircraft and there was a helicopter chartered. And we had teams of -- and I was responsible for doing this study. And you know, how are you going to estimate numbers of bears in a rain forest? The only thing I could come up with was measuring paw imprints in the sand on these salmon streams. Which meant we would go up, get dropped off in pairs, two people. One person had a bear gun, a shotgun usually with slugs, and the other person had a clipboard and tape measure. And you had your usual rain gear and stuff. And the helicopter would try to find a place where they could land -- drop us off up at the headwaters of these salmon streams. And this team would walk down and measure bear tracks and record them and where they were found. And then get down to the bottom, the helicopter would pick you up and move you over to another one. So you could do maybe two or three in a day.

KAREN BREWSTER: So those are different drainages?

DAVID KLEIN: Adjacent drainages. And we'd work around the island that way. So there was -- there were -- we had a team of about -- it must have been eight or ten pairs, probably eight pairs of us. So we had a pretty good size team. And then we'd stay overnight on the boats, the big gas boats that we had. The Forest Service and ours, and we'd be anchored up together. And that was nice. It was a challenge for me to pull this thing off, because the Forest Service was telling us, claiming that the bears weren't all that numerous, etc., etc. And that they just move between drainages. And we didn't know how much they moved. Well, anyway, we did this count. And then on the basis of differential size of tracks, we estimated the population on any drainage and then compared drainage to drainage to drainage. And that was -- we published on that. And it was a new technique. Published it in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. And then we were able to make the case that there were a hell of a lot more bears there than was thought to be the case, and that the salmon streams were critically important, because that's where we were seeing them, through the bears. And they were productive salmon streams, even though they had long periods of time -- that was pretty exciting work. You're walking down a salmon stream and there's a lot of noise from the water, because there's riffles and small bleedels [?@1:46:22] that the salmon could leap over, and that's

where the bears are liable -- And there's all this thick brush, sometimes you couldn't walk in the stream, it was too deep. We had hip boots. And so you'd walk up on the bank and then you'd jump down on a sandbar. Ooh, and there's a sow with cubs or something. So you'd try to back off or something. But we did all this and we didn't have any attacks. We had some false attacks and exciting experiences, but we didn't have any serious problems.

KAREN BREWSTER: What was one of the exciting ones?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I can think of two. One when the two of us were walking down a stream and suddenly we'd come to this wind throw where there's all these logs across the stream. And it was like this high. And climbing, and the water --

KAREN BREWSTER: Was it eight feet, six feet high?

DAVID KLEIN: Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: Six or eight feet high?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, at least in the high part. And so we're climbing over these to get down to just beyond it. It was, you know, a hundred yards thick. And we're up there toward the top, but you're just up and down and then to go down, and then there's a bear coming up in the part just below it. Where it was approaching this log jam. And so -- and it didn't see us because we were down there with just our heads looking over. And this is interesting, what's this bear going to do? And the bear was just walking up the stream. And there were no good places for catching salmon there, I guess. And so I don't know, I probably had a camera, but I didn't have it readily available. In those days, it was in my pack. But then, you know, it's close enough that we think, well, you know it's going to see us and run away. And then we thought, all it can see is our heads. And so it hadn't seen us. And so we, then I think, we waved our arms and shouted, and the bear looked up and still all it could see is just these arms and heads. Obviously, it couldn't identify us. And then it start -- continued walking up. And we didn't know what it would do when it got to the log jam, how it would get over it. But I remember I said to Chuck, "We'd better climb up and expose our whole bodies." By that time, we had our rifles ready. We always had it ready, but we climbed up there and then we got there and we shouted and waved our arms, the bear looked and turned around and ran like hell downstream. Well, then the other one was sort of a byproduct of this count, in that we were doing -- We'd get back at the end of the day and then I'd go with one of the pilots, with a fixed wing float plane and we would try to do counts of bears along -- This was in the spring time. This was at a different time before the salmon were running. It was a different operation. We were counting -- trying to count them out on the sedge meadows and the estuaries of streams at the heads of bays. Which bears would be out there munching down on the new green sedge, along with a few deer and a few geese. They were all out there munching on this because it's high quality food and bears are going for that in the spring time. And that's when there would be guided hunters out there, the guided hunters, because the skins were still good in the spring. And so they would go out -- the bears would be out

there usually in the evening, and maybe in the wee hours of the morning, but it was hard to be -- get out there at midnight and wait for them, so most of the hunters went out late in the day and they'd set up their place to wait for the bears to come out. And so they were doing that. And we were tied up alongside of one of these guided hunters, and so we socialized a bit with him and this wealthy Texan, who was an interesting guy. But at any rate, then the pilot of this plane was a Fish and Wildlife law enforcement agent, and he was a good pilot and nice guy. And he was an ardent hunter, but he wanted to -- he'd become a bow hunter and he'd kill deer with a bow and arrow. He wanted to kill a brown bear with his bow and arrow. And so he asked me if I would back him up with a gun in a brown bear hunt, while we were there in the evening, if we had time. And I naively said, I never shot a bear and I didn't particularly want to, but I figured okay, yeah. I mean, he was a good hunter and knew the problems, so --

KAREN BREWSTER: And you were allowed to do that if you were there counting them? You were allowed to then also to go hunting?

DAVID KLEIN: Technically, we were only working when we were flying, counting. So we weren't allowed to go and fly and locate a place. Partly because we were flying these places that the guides were going with their hunters and so we weren't competing with them. So we landed. And there was this one place that was -- and we had this small boat, with a small outboard on the big boat that was available. And we came back, and it wasn't a very good day for hunting. We didn't see much. We didn't know why, but maybe we saw a few bears. But we landed and so -- which is the normal time before it gets darks, you don't want to be out flying there when it gets dark, because we didn't have any navigational lights or anything there available to us. He said, "Well, if we go over to this little cove, it looked like a place where there might be some bears coming out. Let's give it a try. Would you be -- You want to do that?" I said, "Well, yeah, I'll do it. I'll back you up on it." So we motored over to this place, and it was only five minutes or less and we got over there and we got on one side of this peninsula, and it was the other side of this very narrow peninsula with trees. And so we pulled up the skiff and walked through. And I had my bear gun, rifle. And walked through. And very careful. And it was a nice calm evening and they weren't any bears. There was this narrow band of sedges, which they would be coming to eat on if they were there. It was not a very impressive compared to the heads of the bays and stuff. So we figured well, that's the way it goes. You know, it's just a chance. And we stepped down onto the high tide area, where there were a couple of drift logs and branches of the hemlock was hanging out over a little bit, and sat down on this log, just outside of that. But the sedges were in front of us. And enjoying -- it was a beautiful evening. We were just enjoying sitting there and watching. We'd been sitting in a plane for a couple hours at a time. And set the rifle down against the log. And he set his bow and arrow and quiver down on the side of the log, too. And we were just enjoying watching the evening's light fail. And I don't know whether there was any -- there was probably -- sun had gone behind the hills and it was just a beautiful evening. And I figured well, that was that. And just then oops, there's a bear, brown bear comes out of the woods down the beach a ways, just before you get to the -- all this sedge in front of us. And yeah, it's a brown bear. Oops, another one following it. And the other one was a big one. And we realized the first one was a female

and the other one was a male following it. And so here we are sitting pretty much in the open, not behind a blind or anything. We're sitting out there on this log, but we didn't -- we're just sitting there. And so it was obviously -- and we knew enough about bears that without any movement they're not going to -- they base it on smell. And it's anybody's guess whether they're going to get a smell or not. There wasn't much wind. So he said, "Oh, this could be ideal." So the plan was he was going to try to shoot this big male with his bow and arrow. And he wanted me to be ready because he said, "If I get an arrow in, they're going to come right down here just really close, and it will be within range of his arrow." And this is the problem with hunting a bear with arrows. They're too damn close to begin with. And he said, "If I put an arrow in that bear and it's a good shot, then if I'm to kill it instantly, and you may have to shoot it right away if it comes for us. If it runs away, well, we have to wait and see and go after it then." I began to realize this is more complicated than I thought. He said, "We shouldn't move at all or we'll attract the bear's attention." So as soon as the bears, the female -- and they were only about twelve feet apart as they're walking down the beach. As soon as the female reaches this one rock, which we could identify just directly out in front of us. And the sedges were there between us and the rock. And as soon as they reached that rock, then we both stand up. He had to stand up to shoot his bow and arrow. He will quiver the arrow and shoot the bear. I should be -- as soon as we get up, I should eject -- put a shell into the chamber and be ready. So I should concentrate on that. Well, both of us had concentration points. And so we did this. The minute everything looked like it was just going by clockwork, you know, they came right down, the sow arrived at this thing and they hadn't seen us. We jumped up, oh man, then they came to life. And the sow started -- there was a little confusion on their part and the sow -- and by the time I'm thinking the arrow is going to fly instantaneously, and I'm ready with my gun. And the arrow didn't fly and the sow started -- finally she started running in the direction they were going, to get by us. And then the plan obviously was they could run into the woods and get away. And the male, he was interested in that female and he was in charge here, not us. And so the male was starting to act very concerned. And not running away. And by this time the female has made it into the edge of the woods and we can hear her. She's just running like hell and she's making noise, like breaking brush because she's heading out. And certainly the male can hear that, too. So the male -- and we were not quite between the female and him. We weren't -- because she had gone around and he could do the same thing. Instead, he makes a false charge. And then I see this alder -- by then he's getting over closer to the woods, but he's not going after the female, he's concerned about us. So there's this alder, a young alder plant growing there, and he's just -- that's sort of between him and us. And I figured, "When do I shoot this sucker?" Because it's still -- there's no arrow flying. No arrow flying. Now I'm thinking if he's charging us, I'm going to have to shoot the sucker, even if he doesn't have an arrow in him, which of course I didn't want to do. And I was ready. All this time, I had the rifle on him and finger was on the trigger. And he makes this false charge, and I figured if he comes beyond that alder, then he's only like from here to the kitchen away. That was much too close.

KAREN BREWSTER: Twenty feet.

DAVID KLEIN: Something like that. And he comes charging. And when he came he was deliberately *humped* down making a lot of noise when he hit the ground. And he reaches there behind that alder and he's *thumping* the biggest deal right there. And he hesitated for a minute. And I thought, am I waiting too long? Now. Will he follow through in a full charge now? And at the last minute, he turned. And I think we could still hear that female breaking brush, and he headed off in the woods following her. And then I looked around at my buddy, and he was just standing there. He said, "I couldn't -- I tried to get this arrow in there, but I just couldn't. I was so excited and it wouldn't -- And I was so concerned about this bear not behaving, not just standing there waiting for me to shoot it." And he says, "I couldn't get it in. And then I thought it's too close. Too close to shoot it with an arrow by that time."

KAREN BREWSTER: I didn't know that you could be too close.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, definitely, because you're going to wound it. You're not going to kill it instantly. And so I was waiting for him. To see that arrow go, and it didn't come. And of course, I was glad in retrospect that it didn't. And he realized the pressure on me that, "What should I do?" And he didn't know whether I was going to shoot this thing or not. But finally, we just both sat down -- went back and sat down on that log. And he was still a smoker and he had to light a cigarette, and he said, "Holy mackerel! I don't think I want to kill a big grizzly any longer with a bow and arrow. If I do it, if I kill a brown bear again with a bow and arrow, I'm going to shoot -- go for a small one." So he never -- On that one -- I told him I didn't want to do it any longer, and he didn't want to really at that stage. I heard later he did kill one once, but he went out with another person and he waited until he could get a small one. And finally killed one with a bow and arrow.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what was that guy's name? Do you remember?

DAVID KLEIN: I think it was Lyman[?] something or other, but I'll have to look -- I could look it up probably. He was based, I think, in Ketchikan. But he was a good guy. And I think I had another experience with him that was -- might have been bear related. We had landed in Mole Harbor, yeah, it was. Mole Harbor is where the bear man of southeast Alaska lived.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't know who that is.

DAVID KLEIN: There's a book written about it. He wrote one book and other people wrote books. He sort of befriended the bears. It's a place -- it's now a major bear watching area that the Forest Service has. It's a short flight from Anchorage, or from Juneau, and it's in Admiralty Island and head of -- is it Lynn Canal? I think. And there're fabulous bear pictures from there. And this guy got used to the bears, and the bears got used to him and he never had any problems with bears. And he lived many, many years there. But he had retired and left and went into the old people's home or something, and his place was still there. We flew in there once with this guy and there was another person with me. I forgot who it was. And we did a hike with beautiful weather. Nice, clear weather. And the tide -- it's a big shallow bay, so with a float plane you've got to

be careful about tides and what. Well, we anchored the -- we were in there when the tide was fairly low, half tide maybe, but was a long way from the beach. And so we had a whole bunch of -- had put together two or three lines and so we could anchor the plane so that it would stay there, but then had a line so that you could pull that anchor from the end of this line that went towards shore but didn't get to shore. You had to be there before the tide got high again to pull it in. Well, then we took a hike up into the mountains, up to a lake and a cabin. That was a really nice place and a nice cabin. Was good fishing for rainbow trout. It was a Forest Service cabin you could rent. And we just hiked up there and then when we started -- we'd accomplished that, and then suddenly this overcast was coming in and, ooh, that's a big front moving in. And so the pilot said, we better head back, because that plane is not in a good place if we get a big wind. It sat out there in the middle of this mud flat, which would be in water eventually. So we hiked back down. It was another 45 minutes or so. And we got there, you know, the tide's in and we can't get the rope to pull the plane in to close to shore and the water out there was -- tide was already four or five feet deep. And he says, "Oh, what do we do?" And he says, "I don't like the idea of waiting. It's going to be hours before we can wait for that tide to go out enough so that we could pull it in." Well, our plan was that we would be up there longer. He says, it's the rate of the weather and the clouds are moving in, and it's a storm front that's moving in, in a hurry. So he says, "I guess we just have to wait." And I said, "Why not swim out there?" He said, "No." He wasn't into swimming in the ocean in southeast Alaska. And I said, "But it's been a nice sunny day, there's a mud flat, the water will be warm." And finally they said, "No." I said, "Well, okay, I will." And so I took off my outer clothes and I swam out and the water was really nice, because it had been sunny and I knew from experience that you can go swimming in these places, because the tide comes in over that warm, muddy bottom and it warms up the water. So it was a nice swim. And I swam out and pulled the anchor and got the rope and pulled it back into shore. We loaded aboard and flew out. And this guy was such a macho guy that there was some satisfaction in doing this. It was no big deal. I'd swam for a boat, because you had to do that for your boats. And mostly I would just sit on the beach and it was pouring down rain and colder than hell, and the beach wasn't -- the water in those cases would be really cold. And that was the last resort. And then I'd use my skill to get a fire going with some driftwood, which is not easy when it's raining. And get a fire going, and just wait for the tide to get back so you can finally get it out.

KAREN BREWSTER: So in this case you made it back to Petersburg?

DAVID KLEIN: Wherever we were based at the time, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you impressed the tough pilot, huh?

DAVID KLEIN: Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: You impressed that tough pilot?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. He wasn't a tough pilot, he was just a typical macho male like the rest of us at that age and time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Alright. Well, I'm thinking maybe we'll take a break for tonight.

DAVID KLEIN: Sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: If that's okay? And we'll move us past Petersburg the next time.

DAVID KLEIN: That's good.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is that okay?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.