

RECORDED INTERVIEW OF CARL NORD, PART 1

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER

IN BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIBED BY RUTH SENSENIG

[00:00:00]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, this is Karen Brewster. Today is April 30, 2019, and I'm here on Bainbridge Island with Carl Nord. This is an interview for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Oral History project. So Carl, thank you for letting me come visit you here.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And picking me up at the ferry on a beautiful, beautiful day. Um, so, let's talk about Skagway. You were born there?

CARL NORD: Yeah, I was born there in 1938. Yeah. (Baby Carl Nord and Grandmother.jpg)



(Carl Nord_Summer 1939.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: And I started remembering things about 1945. I can remember going to first grade for the first time, and so. I remember a few things before school, but mostly 'cause my mother told me about them, you know. So after you hear 'em enough, you think you remember them.

[00:00:50]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And so now, what were your parents' names?

CARL NORD: Uh, Ingrid and Fred.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nord.

CARL NORD: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And when did they come to Skagway?

CARL NORD: Well, they came to Skagway in January of 1937 'cause my dad read an article they need some people working in the railroad office, and they thought -- the thing is, they told me that they really didn't suffer at all during the Depression. They hardly knew there was a depression. My dad worked in Seattle. He was an accountant and worked in the -- what's now the -- still known as the Smith Tower.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: In that building. But they -- there was a strike on the dock, and he wasn't getting much business. And they saw this ad to, uh, get a job in the railroad office in Skagway, and they thought, "Well, that'd be fun to go up there for a few years and do that and then see what we want to do." So they ended up staying fourteen years, see, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: So, uh.

[00:01:46]KAREN BREWSTER: And so, was he an accountant then for the railroad?

CARL NORD: Yeah, he was an accountant, so -- so he did all kinds of bookkeeping of various - and he got promoted, you know, every once in a while, so he was a head guy in the office by the time he left and all kinds of things like that, you know, so. And I still got all the stubs from the checkbooks that he wrote. My mom saved everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: See, her mom threw everything away when she got married and moved out. And threw away her Hollywood album and all that stuff, but saved her school work and some important things like that. And photographs, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Eh, so my mom learned from that. So she started collecting everything that had to do with me and my sister as we grew up. And when we were old enough, she gave it to us, and we could continue. So we did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: So we have all our cards, and all our postcards, letters. [00:02:28]Uh, my dad's dad was down here in poor health, and I have all the correspondence between him and his dad. 'Cause my dad made copies of all his letters, and I have all the ones from his father. And I have cousins in Norway I'm hoping are going to decipher what the letters from the grandfather said.

KAREN BREWSTER: From --

CARL NORD: 'Cause they were in Norwegian.

KAREN BREWSTER: Your grandfather --

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- to your father?

CARL NORD: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: It was in Norwegian?

CARL NORD: And my dad's letters to him were in English.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: But he saved copies of all the letters he sent, so I have all that history and like that. And that grandfather died in 1942. He came to Skagway and met me when I was like, two years old. 'Course, I didn't remember. I think I have a picture of the two of us together and like that. And uh, his wife died when my dad was probably about five years old or something like that, so I never knew anything much about that one. She came from Sweden, and he came from Norway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: And they met in Seattle, and I -- the -- my cousins in Norway -- I found out exactly when they met in Seattle, when they came the ound (?), and those are things that I didn't even know, or when they came to Seattle, I should say, yeah.

[00:03:33]KAREN BREWSTER: So do you know when and why your grandfather came from Norway to Seattle?

CARL NORD: No. I just know the when of it. And my sister's been trying to get this stuff down here, but the ones in Norway had a lot more luck.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: And they have the one family back to the 1700's, and the other ones back into the mid-1800's.

KAREN BREWSTER: What did your grandfather do in Seattle?

CARL NORD: I think -- my grandfather, I think, had a farm. We came down to visit my other grandmother, my mother's mother, in 1946 after the war, 'cause we were allowed to leave the town then. No one could leave the town during the war because of the -- all the Alcan Highway stuff going through there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: All the men, all the soldiers, ten thousand soldiers lived in Skagway. And we were, of course, a target for Japanese bombers and things like that. And, of course, luckily I didn't know about any of this until after the war was over and found out about all these things. But uh, so uh, but we came down in '46, and we went to Rolling Bay, which is over on the other side of the island and saw where my dad was growing up. I have a good picture of my dad, his dad, and his brother in front of that house, which is no longer there. It was there in '46, but it was gone when we moved here in '51, so I never saw it again. And I remember we went through a barn, and all kinds of stuff was in the barn. And my dad had people on the island that were friends of his from his childhood that went way back that were taking care of all the business on the island and the property and all that kind of stuff. So when we moved in '51, we no longer owned that property anymore. It had been sold, and all that kind of stuff.

KAREN BREWSTER: But so, your dad grew up on that property, and that's on Bainbridge?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So um -- [00:05:16]And you have a sister? (Mimi Nord.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Younger sister?

CARL NORD: She lives in Seattle. She's six years younger than I am, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what's her name?

CARL NORD: Mimi.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: I can remember when she was born because I wanted my Mom to call her Winkie. I don't know where Winkie came from. "Wee Willie Winkie," probably.

KAREN BREWSTER: Probably.

CARL NORD: Yeah. That's probably where it came from. I said, "Can we call her Winkie?" I guess we knew it was a sister coming. I would assume that because if it was going to be a brother, I wasn't going to want him to be called Winkie.

KAREN BREWSTER: Maybe.

CARL NORD: So that's one of my earliest memories of that, so. So she -- she's historically minded, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: She's studying Second Avenue in Seattle from turn of the century to 1920, and getting the names of all the buildings and businesses that lived there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Great.

CARL NORD: Now she's going to move to another street 'cause she's gotten about all she can get out of that. And so, I'm doing the Bainbridge Island stuff out here. Work for the museum out here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Great.

CARL NORD: And stuff like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, does she have a married last name?

CARL NORD: No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: She's Mimi Nord?

CARL NORD: Neither one of us ever married.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: So uh, we're the end of the family.

KAREN BREWSTER: So she goes by Nord also?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [00:06:28]Um, so you said your first memory of Skagway?

CARL NORD: I remember going to first grade. My mother took me the first day, and then after that, I had to go there on my own. But it was only four blocks. But the north wind was blowing. If you read my books, you'll find out what it's like to go to school in the north wind. You walked backwards. Only your eyes showed. Your eyelashes had ice on 'em by the time you got to school. And then going home, the wind blew you home.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: So where did you -- where was this --

CARL NORD: But my mom told me this. I don't remember this, but uh, did you ever see the movie "A Christmas Story" with Ralphie and the BB gun and all that?

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Ok. You remember his little brother, stick like that with all the clothes he's got on?

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. He can't move his body.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. Well, that's what I looked like in first grade and went to school. And the wind would catch me and blow me down the street like a tumbleweed.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: But my mother -- I said, "I have to learn to get to school by myself. She just can't go out there and help me do that." And I got there, you know, so. But see, I don't remember that except from the story, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: That part, yeah.

[00:07:29]KAREN BREWSTER: So where was the house that you lived in? (Nord House_Skagway.jpg)



CARL NORD: Uh, Tenth and Alaska. It's still there. Uh, the beautiful yard with all the gardens has been divided, sub-divided into, like, four different buildings on that property now. And there's no gardens or anything anymore. The house has been slightly enlarged, and when I was there in '89 and '91, I met the people that were living there, there. And they took me through the house. And a new bathroom had been made, a bigger bathroom. Another addition had been put on. And the one thing that was there from when I was there was the kitchen sink, which was one of those double sinks with a sliding thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: So we had a deep sink over here and a dishes-washing sink here. And we used to slide it back and forth and sail little boats in the side over here. And then they could go over here, and then they could sail their little boats on this side. We'd just slide the thing back like that, so that -- that was still there. Everything else in the house was changed, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did your --

CARL NORD: But I was amazed at how small the house was.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really.

CARL NORD: How small the yard looked and all that. And all the trees they planted are still there. And they were huge, of course, by -- after forty years, you know, of growing and everything, so.

[00:08:33]KAREN BREWSTER: Now, did your family own the house? (Nord House Skagway_winter 1939-1940.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, your dad bought --

CARL NORD: My dad built it when he came up there. And darn, I never found out how much of it he actually built. He was a good carpenter. See all these shelves and things in the kitchen here?

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: He built all those after we bought this house. This is an original thing from the '30's. This is hooked onto this, and it's all one big piece.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, it's one big cabinet, yeah.

CARL NORD: But it's been separated when it was put in here. But he did all these other shelves, and all the shelves and all around the house. He could've been a carpenter. So I never -- of course, I know he didn't do putting in the water and the electric and all that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: But I always -- never asked him, you know, how much of that he actually did. 'Cause uh, in the '60's, he put scaffolding up and redid -- the whole house was wooden things like that. He has natural wood paneling all the way around the house. I was in the army then, but I have pictures of it, all the scaffolding. He was climbing up in there and putting this all on himself, you know, like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. On this house here?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[00:09:30]KAREN BREWSTER: And so, you said that house in Skagway had had a garden?
(Nord House and Garden Skagway.jpg)



CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. My mom had uh -- we had nice little paths. We had a fence all the way around it. And there was a huge vegetable garden where all the extra fish stuff went. And then we had huge vegetables. We had, you know -- you know what rhubarb looks like in Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: We didn't have that six feet high rhubarb, but we had the leaves that big around. And we used to use those for umbrellas to keep the sun off, you know, like that. And we had a crabapple tree, and, boy, we had all those beautiful vegetables that we grew. And my mom had all the flower gardens all around the yard and like that, 'cause she was -- always loved flowers and doing gardening and stuff like that, so. And my dad would take care of the vegetable garden until I was old enough and supposed to do it myself, you know. (Veg Garden.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Supposed to. Does that mean you didn't do it?

CARL NORD: You know, you try to get out of doing work. I didn't get an allowance. Um, whatever extra work I did other than my regular chores, I earned money, see. So that was the incentive to actually do some work around the yard, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: And when my dad put part of the lawn in in clover, that lawn was so easy to mow. You had a push mower --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- with a basket in the back like that. A real mower. And that was the easiest part to mow. So I'd get a dollar if I mowed the whole lawn, see, and a dollar went a long ways in those days.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[00:10:43]CARL NORD: I spent it on comic books and stamps. So I found a stamp company in Connecticut where they sent out approvals, and you buy what you want and send the money and

send the other ones back, you know? So I did that for twenty or thirty years, you know, like that. So my early money was spent on comic books and stamps.

KAREN BREWSTER: And stamps. Not on candy?

CARL NORD: No. Anytime we went to the store, I could go pick out some candy, so. And I wasn't supposed to eat candy all the time anyway, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But that's why kids go and --

CARL NORD: Yeah, I know, that's what they do now. I had kids working for me in the yard here, earning Christmas money. And they'd get, like, 15 percent of it on the day they worked, and the rest of it went into a fund. So then I'd take them Christmas shopping in Seattle, and they would have twenty or thirty dollars to spend.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nice.

CARL NORD: On their family things, you know, like that. But they always spent that little bit on candy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. That's true.

CARL NORD: That 15 percent, that went for candies.

[00:11:30]KAREN BREWSTER: But also, you know, in the '40's, stamp collecting maybe was a popular thing for little boys?

CARL NORD: Oh, that was a big thing, yeah. My dad had a whole big box of stamps. You know, he tore 'em off the envelopes and put 'em in a box. He also gave me about fifty silver dollars, which I still have. And, you know, they're selling for, like seventy bucks apiece now. Hundreds and hundreds of Indian head pennies, buffalo nickels. I've still got 'em in cans upstairs now. Now I have albums that hold all those coins. I can't find ones that holds a dollar, but I found ones that hold halves, quarters, nickels, dimes, and pennies. And I'm going to take all of those and put them in these albums, so. 'Cause I have all the state ones.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. Those quarters.

CARL NORD: You know, and now all the territories and all the parks. I have regular albums that they go in, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: But uh, I'm still in touch with one of those stamp companies, and I wrote to 'em and asked -- they also do coins, so I wanted to get unmarked coin books that I could put in any kind of coins. It doesn't say it has to be a park or anything like that, so.

[00:12:25]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right. Well now, we have the refrigerator going again.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Well, it won't stay on very long.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's ok. Just so we know what that noise is.

CARL NORD: Yeah, ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: In the background. People will know what it is and that we can't control it.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. Well, I could unplug the refrigerator.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well, that's ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[00:12:41]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, what was I gonna ask you about? So what kind of vegetables did your -- did they grow?

CARL NORD: Oh, ok. Cabbages. You know what I used to do with the cabbages? The cabbages weren't round. They had a point on top.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: I'd go around and chew off the tops of all the cabbages.
KAREN BREWSTER: While it was growing?
CARL NORD: Because I love raw cabbage.
KAREN BREWSTER: While it was growing in the garden?
CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Or at least some of 'em. I never got in trouble for that because there was so much cabbage anyway. Uh, couldn't do corn or anything like that.
KAREN BREWSTER: No.
CARL NORD: We had potatoes, cabbage, carrots, um, parsnips, radishes, any of those general vegetables that don't need a lot of heat to get -- so we couldn't do corn.
KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I would've thought Skagway might've been warmer so you could not necessarily do corn, but that you could do --
CARL NORD: Yeah.
KAREN BREWSTER: -- some warmer vegetables. 'Cause it's sort of farther south and warmer.
CARL NORD: Yeah, right. Well, you look on the parallels, we're about the same as Anchorage.
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.
CARL NORD: On a map, Anchorage is way up here, and we're down here. But the parallel lines go just right like that.
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.
CARL NORD: So we're the same. So we're like the same distance north, really.
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.
CARL NORD: Which you'd never think about if you just looked at a flat map, you know, so. [00:13:48] We had a crabapple tree, and we had gooseberries, currants, and we had huge raspberries that were as big as loganberries.
KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.
CARL NORD: They were a cross between something, and so, um -- my mom canned rhubarb sauce. She would do it in jars, cook it in jars and seal it up. And raspberries, and that's what we'd put on our pancakes. And we didn't have apples as such. We had the crabapples, so we had crabapple jelly.
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.
CARL NORD: Boy, was that good.
KAREN BREWSTER: That's good.
CARL NORD: And currant jelly. That was really good, because my mom would always make that almost every year. And uh, what was the other thing I was thinking? Um, oh, oh, yeah. Applesauce. Stokely's canned applesauce is what we put on our pancakes when we had applesauce.
KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.
CARL NORD: My mom made her own syrup.
KAREN BREWSTER: Out of birch?
CARL NORD: Um, Mapleine and, I don't know, brown sugar and all kinds of --
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.
CARL NORD: She'd use -- she had her regular recipes that she concocted. And she continued doing that down here, too, so uh. Right now, I order from the Vermont Country Store.
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.
CARL NORD: I get their -- their little houses.
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: I have a whole stove full of the little glass houses.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And the little tin houses, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Those syrup --

CARL NORD: I figure I'll paint the little glass houses sometimes, like, paint little trees growing up them and stuff like that, but you can't do anything with the one that's a printed pictures on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause they are all the same, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You just turn some around this way.

[00:15:14]KAREN BREWSTER: I didn't know you could make maple syrup like that.

CARL NORD: Yeah. My mom also made her own relish with peppers and onions and green tomatoes, like that. And boy, was that good relish. That's one of the things I didn't learn how to make. I know how to make everything. I made bread for our lunch, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, great.

CARL NORD: I do pies, cakes, cookies. I can do, um, biscuits, you know, like -- we used to have our strawberry shortcake on baking powder biscuits, not like cake things like you normally get, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So you just slice those and put the whipped cream and the strawberries on.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's what a strawberry shortcake's supposed to be.

CARL NORD: Yeah. But see, people don't do that now, but see, that's the way it was done then.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's --

CARL NORD: And that's the way my mom --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's how I think of when I think of strawberry shortcake. It's that biscuit-y kind of --

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's what a shortcake is.

CARL NORD: Right, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I think. [00:16:06]So you learned all that cooking and baking and stuff from your mom?

CARL NORD: Yeah. I -- I -- I started keeping my own recipes when I was probably about ten years old. How to boil an egg, how to make Jell-O. You know, very simple things like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: But so after quite a few years later, I said, "I gotta learn how to make bread." So she was, "Well, there's no recipe." So I just followed her through every step she did one day and wrote down -- made my own recipe.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.

CARL NORD: Yeah, she learned to do that from an army sergeant during World War II, because my grandmother made these small, brown, hard loaves.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And my mom made these great big white, fluffy rolls, you know. You could actually bend them and it wouldn't break off.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: I mean, you know, like that, so. And I'd never thought of that until, you know, many years later. [00:16:55]'Cause I went to the University of Washington, and my grandmother lived a few blocks away. So I lived in the dorm and did all the -- played basketball and did all that other kind of stuff. And uh, but every Tuesday night, I'd go up to her house and watch Red Skelton, my favorite show, and Tom Yule show, which was on the same time as that one. And she'd make hot dogs for me on these real hard pieces of bread, which was fine. It wasn't that I didn't like it or anything. And that's when I realized, hey, my mom didn't copy my grandmother's making bread.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that hard bread is the Norwegian/Swedish way.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. That's the Old Country-type thing, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah. [00:17:34]Well, but that's neat that you took up learning that stuff from your mom.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That she taught that to you.

CARL NORD: I always laugh at these guys if the wife isn't there doing the cooking: "Well, what are we gonna do? You can't do anything."

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Man, you can't even take a can of stuff out of the thing and warm it on the stove?

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. I mean, especially your generation. There aren't so many men who know how to bake.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. That's great. [00:17:56]Um, I was going to ask -- oh. You were talking about raspberries and stuff. Did you guys ever go out and go berry picking and get blueberries and --

CARL NORD: Blueberries, yeah. We'd take the train -- oh yeah, there's where we took the train up, just to a place called Portage. It was a little cabin there. You could rent it out for the weekend or a week, or whatever you wanted to. And uh, and we picked blueberries up there. We had to watch out for bears, and um -- and mice ran all over the house. You had to keep your food and everything put away 'cause there were mice running all over the place. And but we did -- so I -- that was when I had to take the train up there. It was the only way we could get there. I forgot about that. I never took it to Whitehorse. That's it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: I never took it that far, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, Port -- that cabin there was like a public cabin, or was your family's cabin?

CARL NORD: No. No. It was a rented out -- somebody in town owned it and built it and just rented it out to anybody that wanted to go live in the wilds for a little while, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you'd go up for the weekend or something?

CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah. [00:18:57]So I can remember making pies up there, though.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Out of the blueberries and things like that. I remember that. And um, and go down, and there was fish right nearby, 'cause there's water everywhere up there, you know, all the rivers and the lakes and things that are around there. And all kinds of fish skeletons there, so that must've been where the bears caught the fish and ate some of it and left some of it, so. It was

kind of a strange place. And the train went by every once in a while, over a little ways. You could see it from the cabin, you know. But going up on the train in '91, I couldn't find that cabin anymore, so I don't think it has survived that long, so.

[00:19:37]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so how far of a walk from the train tracks to that cabin?

CARL NORD: Oh, five minutes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah, I mean, you could see the train from the cabin, so. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was it on a lake?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: Oh, it must've been. Yeah. It must've been on some part of a lake because there was a place where the fish were there, you know. So, we never went fishing, though. We were just looking for berries and things like that, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah, and unfortunately, we didn't take any pictures there, so. You know, there's some things that never got photographed --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- that I wish had gotten photographed. Like, when I found out we were going to move down here, I wish I could've taken the family camera and photographed all my families in front of their house.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, all your friends, yeah.

CARL NORD: Which I could've used later when I was doing that. Uh, the only camera things I had was a little box camera.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So I have a bunch of those little pictures like that. But I did one roll, and that was it. So I don't know what happened to that camera or why I didn't take any more. So I have pictures of chickens and my sister and -- and my dad putting up a window or something like that.

[00:20:37]KAREN BREWSTER: You know, but you were twelve, right? When you left, so --

CARL NORD: Yeah. So that would've been when I was eleven.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: 'Cause it would've been the summer before. But I did take the Fourth of July pictures with color film. (4th July Parade1_1951.jpg)



'Cause my mom was in an accordion quartet that sat on a truck and went through the parade, playing their accordions.

(4th July Parade2_1951.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Mm.

CARL NORD: Did you ever meet Eddie Fairbanks? He just passed away. He owned the Fairway.

KAREN BREWSTER: The store?

CARL NORD: Uh, store. You remember that?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah, I think I did.

CARL NORD: Ok. He was one of them. Uh, Pete Van Zanten, who lives in Tacoma now. He was one of them. His dad played the flute and taught things and was the garbage collector. About every kind of job you could have in town, driving around town. And um, Jackie Budd, whose husband worked at the railroad office, too. And she lived to be almost a hundred. Came down here and I'm still in touch with her two daughters. So they were the -- that -- and they'd come to the house and practice at our house. And one time, Pete brought a tape recorder, and we hid it in the chest, so when Eddie Fairbanks and Jackie Budd came in, they were going to have a conversation and tape it and play it back, you know. I remember them doing that, so I suppose he got that tape. We don't have that tape anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was going to say, did he get in trouble for secretly taping?

CARL NORD: No, no. That was just a funny thing to do.

CARL NORD, PART 1

APRIL 30, 2019

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KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah

CARL NORD: 'Cause that's how I remember, that they actually practiced at our house. [00:22:02]And then one year, my sister, when she was like five, has a little, um, cardboard accordion and a little cap, just like our mom wore like that, so it looks like mother and daughter were in the same accordion thing like that. (Ingrid and Mimi Nord_4th July Accordion Players.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: So we have a couple of pictures of that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it's interesting, though, your mom played the accordion.

CARL NORD: The piano, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: Yeah, see now, up there, no television. Radio is Juneau, and there was hardly anything to listen to. Once in a while we could hear a little music. And I can remember before we left, baseball games, Jack Benny, and um, Archie Andrews are things I remember that I was familiar with when we moved down here and I fell in love with radio shows and wouldn't go anywhere on Sundays, 'cause I had to stay home and listen to all the radio shows, starting at 12:00, all the way 'til bedtime. Couldn't miss any of those shows. So now I have hundreds of those shows, 'cause now they're reproducing them all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

CARL NORD: Like, so.

[00:22:54]KAREN BREWSTER: So do you have a favorite one?

CARL NORD: Yeah, Jack Benny is the man. Fibber McGee and Molly, Great Gildersleeve, Our Miss Brooks, Duffy's Tavern. Uh, Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show. All the comedy shows, Red Skelton, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. You liked all those?

CARL NORD: I always like that. But I also have -- I liked the detectives, too. And some of the westerns. So I have a good collection. Probably have a thousand shows on either records, cassettes, or on CD's now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But so, your mom playing music --

CARL NORD: Yeah, so she played classical music.

KAREN BREWSTER: That they'd get -- and they'd get together as a group just to play?

CARL NORD: No. No, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: No?

CARL NORD: She took lessons from Sister Mary Amy at the mission, and I took lessons. And my sister, when she came down here, she took piano lessons, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: So that was all to learn piano?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What about the accordion?

CARL NORD: Uh, I don't know where she learned to play the accordion. She never took lessons from anybody for that. But that's so much like the piano. All you have to do is, the buttons on the other side to make the chords.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: 'Cause the other is just a piano thing, see, so like that. So anyway, I was brought up -- the only records we had in the house were uh, the big bands with The Dorseys and Glenn Miller and all those. We had an album of that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: We had an album of Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters, and one other one. And those were the only records we had in the house. So we had no radio, no television, no newspapers. We got Collier's and Look Magazine to know what's going on in the world.

[00:24:20]And uh, but then, when I started getting old enough, we got a -- we had a phonograph that you wound up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah, I was gonna say, how did you play those records, on a phonograph?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That you wound up, that's how you --

CARL NORD: Wound up, yeah. So anyway --

KAREN BREWSTER: Was it, like, one of those big Victrola kind of --

CARL NORD: No. No, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. It was more modern than that?

CARL NORD: Yeah. It was like a little suitcase.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. Right.

CARL NORD: I wish we still had it, but I don't know what happened to it. That didn't come down with us, I know that. So uh, but anyway, now what was I getting into then?

KAREN BREWSTER: Magazines, newspapers.

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. Ok. Uh, one Christmas, I got a gift certificate to buy records at the record store there, which still is there. That building is still there.

KAREN BREWSTER: In Skagway?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: There was a record store?

CARL NORD: Yeah. I don't know if it's a record store anymore, but the building is still there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you know what -- where?

CARL NORD: Uh, I got pictures of it in -- someplace. Um.

KAREN BREWSTER: Where would it have been?

[00:25:15]CARL NORD: Ok, did you meet Lorene Burfield Gordon?

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

CARL NORD: Alvin Gordon?

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

CARL NORD: Ok. They later got married. Ok, her mother ran that store at that time. So I went in with my coupon, and I bought "Irving the Unemployed Horse," which I still have that album. It was about a horse that was trying to save a snowflake, so it ran all the way up to the North Pole to save the snowflake that was on his nose.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. That's funny.

CARL NORD: Yeah, it was one of the funniest things. And then, I got "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer. "And this is very good because I now have the original book from 1939 of "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer," the very first thing that was ever written.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: It was a poem. And they took this poem in the late '40's and divided it into eight sections. The one part of the poem is a rumba, one is a waltz, and all eight different types of music where they actually did the word-by-word that's in the book that I have now. So now I have the original record of Rudolph, the original book, in good shape except for the cover. It's a little worn. And I got it free at a store in Paulsbo that was selling out and quitting business, and I found it in the Christmas room and said, "Oh boy." And she said, "And you can have it." See, that book's worth hundreds of dollars now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Although that one, while perfectly good inside, the cover was worn.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You know, but anyway, it was good enough for me.

[00:26:34]KAREN BREWSTER: I'm wondering, that record store in Skagway, do you remember where --

CARL NORD: Shamrock Box. It was called the Shamrock Box.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember where it was?

CARL NORD: Um, it was on -- north of downtown, probably up around 8th Avenue. 8th Avenue and something.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it wasn't in --

CARL NORD: On Broadway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, it was on Broadway?

CARL NORD: Yeah, must've been on Broadway. Yeah, I'm pretty sure it was. Yeah. Kinda where Broadway ends and the other ones keep going up like that. And uh, see, oh -- "Peter and the Wolf."

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's a good record.

CARL NORD: I've got a really -- original, you know, the --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that's a good one.

CARL NORD: Poko Fife. That's what I call him, Proko Fife, instead of Prokofiev (composer of "Peter and the Wolf"). So those are my first records, see. So I still got all those records, and I've tape-recorded them onto these tapes and things so I can play them without actually playing the records and stuff like that, you know, so.

[00:27:31]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you re -- did your father play music also?

CARL NORD: No, he was not musical at all. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you -- you learned piano just to learn piano?

CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or did you play in an orchestra or anything?

CARL NORD: No. Now, they started a band up there, high school band and junior high, just as we were leaving. So I bought a clarinet up there to play in that band, and uh, five months before we left town. And Mr. Swick, Bill Swick, bought our house with his four kids, I think it was. I think they got another one later. Um, bought our house, taught me how to play the clarinet, and I was just starting to do that when we moved down here. So when I got down here in sixth grade, the band leader was going around to the schools and teaching the younger kids to start, so by the time they got into junior high, they could join the junior high band, and then they could get in the high school band. So I already had a clarinet, so I was in luck.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And my friend had a clarinet that came down with me, so we both kept on that and went all the way through band. And that was my favorite part of high school, being assistant coach on the baseball team because I wasn't quite good enough to make the team, so the coach put me to work doing everything that needed to be done, and being in the band. Those are my highlights of high school.

[00:28:55]KAREN BREWSTER: So was it a marching band?

CARL NORD: Yeah. They had marching band, concert band, and just regular, uh, kin -- what other kind of band? We didn't have a jazz band. That would've been neat, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: I would've joined that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Clarinet would've been good for a jazz --

CARL NORD: We did play Elvis Presley's "Blue Suede Shoes."

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: And uh, and uh, "On the Trail," from Ferde Grofé's classical music. And uh, played a lot of interesting stuff like that. But see, I was brought up on classical music because my mother played Liszt and Chopin and all that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So I was brought up on that, so I've always loved classical music. So Debussy and Grieg and Tchaikovsky are my three favorites, followed by Chopin and Schubert and Rossini and a bunch of others like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Impressive.

CARL NORD: I got a huge record --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: -- collection of classical music now, too.

[00:29:43]KAREN BREWSTER: So Mr. Swick?

CARL NORD: Yeah, Bill Swick.

KAREN BREWSTER: S-W-I-C-K?

CARL NORD: Yeah. S-W-I-C-K, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And he was a teacher at the school?

CARL NORD: Yeah, he was there for several years, starting the year we left. And then he got transferred to a bigger school. I think he went up to Anchorage. I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: So he wasn't your teacher?

CARL NORD: He was for the first -- a couple of months.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the first couple of months, that's right.

CARL NORD: For a couple of months there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Other teachers you remember?

CARL NORD: Oh, I remember all the teachers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember who -- so who were your teachers?

CARL NORD: I have all the -- first grade was Helen Jordan, who made me stand in the corner.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh. What did you do?

CARL NORD: I have no idea what I did, but I remember that. And second teacher was Helen Wallace, second grade. See, it was first and second grade, same room.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. But you had two separate teachers?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Helen Jordan disappeared after the first year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: I actually have a picture of her, 'cause I couldn't remember what she looked like. And then -- so then Helen Wallace came in, and I had her for second, and she was my all-time favorite teacher.

KAREN BREWSTER: Why?

CARL NORD: Just because she was so nice. [00:30:43]And because of the books I wrote, I kept the names of the teachers, the doctors, and the main people are in the books.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: They're real people. And some of the -- my school kids are actually in there, mixed in with all my fictional characters, see. And she got a hold of one of those books and found out, there she was, Miss Wallace, directing the first and second graders in the Christmas pageant.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: And it said in the thing where I worked, and when she wrote to me, I worked at the Bainbridge Library, 'cause I did the custodial work and the yard and everything there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Um, and so we got to spend the last years of her life with her, just because she found her name in my book.

KAREN BREWSTER: And she was -- she was here --

CARL NORD: We never --

KAREN BREWSTER: She was here in the Seattle area?

CARL NORD: Yeah, but she didn't know about our reunions, and we didn't know that she lived there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: She had completely disappeared. And we didn't know anything about her. And there she was, right there, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that's a great connection that came from one of your books.

CARL NORD: Yeah. That was the greatest thing that the book did.

[00:31:38]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Ok, so who was third grade?

CARL NORD: Third grade was Helen -- Again, all these Helens.

KAREN BREWSTER: Helens, yeah.

CARL NORD: Helen Gregory. Now, she was really terrible. We had some guys in the class that did things to annoy her. I don't really remember that much, but I heard about it later. How they stood on top of desks, and were wild and everything. Anyway, she was fired at Christmas.

KAREN BREWSTER: My.

CARL NORD: And went south to learn more about teaching or something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: So do you know --

CARL NORD: And uh, she had hair the same color as you did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Reddish hair. Do you know why she was fired?

CARL NORD: No. Just because she didn't have control over the class or anything like that. And we were good kids. We didn't do things like that. In fact, I don't even remember the couple of kids that did that. Most of us didn't do anything like that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[00:32:23]CARL NORD: So anyway, she was replaced by Edna Rapuzzi.

KAREN BREWSTER: Aha, I know that name.

CARL NORD: The Rapuzzi family was very famous in Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And she was a substitute teacher. I mean, she was available. And she taught whenever a teacher was needed. She'd come in and teach like that. So she wasn't a regular teacher, but boy, she was great. And her husband, George, planned our spring picnic and gave us clues to where a case of pop was hidden way up by the tank farm somewhere up there. So we followed all these clues all through town, across the bridge, up and into that area, and there we found a case of pop in a stream.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Keeping it nice and cold. And that's the most memorable school picnic ever.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I'd say.

CARL NORD: I don't even remember any of our other school picnics, but I sure remember that one.

[00:33:11]KAREN BREWSTER: But every year, they had a school picnic?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Each class had its own picnic, so actually, two classes together would --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. They didn't have it for the whole school together?

CARL NORD: No, no, no, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that picnic, you said, was in May usually?

CARL NORD: Yeah, it was always May, 'cause we were out of school by May, you know, before the end of May because we'd had no spring vacation or anything because it was too cold to do anything on spring vacation. So that was neat. Kids go to school now 'til the middle of June, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause they take off so much time during the year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Well, you had a -- you had a Christmas holidays, though?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: When you were in school?

CARL NORD: Look in my book.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: We had Christmas day off and went to school the next day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that was it?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I thought in the book you had, like, a week off.

CARL NORD: No. Because then next week was New Year's. We'd get New Year's Day off, back to school the next day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: So there wasn't anything to do for a whole week.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well.

CARL NORD: It would drive the parents nuts, running around the house. No kids go outside unless they could go out and brave the snow or anything like that. So, yeah, that's --

[00:34:10]See, I have all the newspapers from that whole year. The high school journalism class put out the newspaper at school as long as we were there. And there was no town newspaper until after we left sometime. But so, I know everything that was in the Christmas program. I just copied exactly what the Christmas program was and put my kids into that program.

KAREN BREWSTER: In your books, yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah. And there's Miss Wallace, uh, with my little -- my little brother in the story, who's been really naughty in this. Thinks he's ruined Christmas, and he's been really glum and not talking to anybody. And suddenly, he's doing these funny things on the stage. Now that was not real.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: That was added to what was real.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And like that. And so he was doing all these things, and then the family walked home together, and everybody was back to being good again. The punishment they'd gone through was all in the past.

[00:34:59]KAREN BREWSTER: We should probably say what the titles of your books are, since we're talking about them.

CARL NORD: Yeah, that was "Alaska Christmas," yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it's the Skagway Kids series?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then there's the "Alaska Christmas."

CARL NORD: Yeah, I've already written four.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, and the other one is something about a snowstorm. What's it called?

CARL NORD: Yeah, that's "Alaska Snowstorm." That's Book Two. Yeah. That's being published -- republished, right now.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the Christmas is the first one, and the snowstorm's the second one?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And now you've written --

CARL NORD: Yeah, I've already written -- every two years, I was writing one back there. But I wasn't making enough money on the first two because I was selling them myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: I was self-published, really.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Like that. I had to pay the publisher to do it. But they did a great job, and I was really happy. But I did it to tell the story of Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. They're fun. I was going to eventually ask you about them, so.

CARL NORD: Yeah. So anyway, Book Three is called "SOS at Sea." It's a fishing story which they end up in a really dangerous situation and have to have a daring rescue plan to get back home safe in the end.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good.

CARL NORD: That's the most exciting one. The fourth one is "The Gold Rush Celebration," which is the Fourth of July celebration and all the things that are going on around there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Great.

CARL NORD: And all that kind of stuff. Book Five, which is in outline form, I haven't written the dialog or any of that. That's where I left off. And that is a combination of a movie company that came to Skagway that filmed the movie "Harpoon." They did all the interiors in Skagway there, and then they went up north in the Bering Sea and actually harpooned a whale for the movie. (Harpoon Story_School Newspaper.jpg)

TRAILBLAZER

EMIL RICHTER PASSES AWAY

Mr. Emil H. Richter passed away in Seattle Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 a.m. He had been ill for several months. Four weeks ago, Mr. Richter, accompanied by his wife, flew outside for medical attention.

His son Claire flew to Seattle Sept. 24 to be at his father's bedside.

The funeral was held at the Butterworth Funeral Parlor, Seattle, Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. Burial was in Seattle.

Mr. Richter came to Skagway as a young man, later opening his Curio Shop.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters Dorothy Wallace of Anchorage and Etta Magnus of California; and two sons, Claire of Skagway and Edward of Arlington, Wn. He was a member of the Elks and the Eagles.

SKAGWAY IS DISCOVERED WORLD PREMIER HERE THIS WINTER

August 14, at four o'clock in the afternoon Skagway was invaded by Danches Brothers Movie Co. and until they left on Sept. 18, the town was the scene of constant activity.

The Danches Bros. are in the process of filming the picture HARPOON--written, produced, and directed by Ewing Scott--and is to be shown in a world premier here in January or February.

cont'd next column

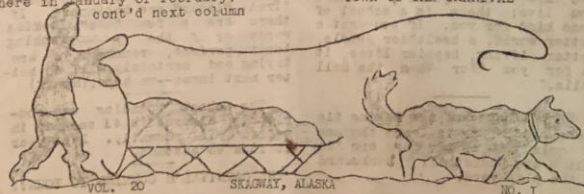
In this movie will be seen James Cardwell, who acted in CANYON PASSAGE, DEVIL ON WHEELS, and as the older brother in THE SULLIVANS.

Some of the others stars making their first picture are: Fernon Brownfield, James Martens, Alice Lewis, Patricia Carlsson, Ruth Castle, Grant Means, Bud Jilson, Ed Hinton, and Sally Davis.

Also, there are the townspeople in the movie who are: Pat Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Moe, Mr. and Mrs. H. Eribertnow, Mrs. Stevenson, Pat Patterson, Marie Carlile, Jerry Fitzgerald, Max Sterfen, Kaiser Wilhelm, Budd Bierhard, Freddie Ericson, Pat Sullivan, Ronald Shelby, Bus Matthews, and Bill Sherman.

Bill Dewar furnished the back part of his store for interior shots, Jack Kirmse did the set makeup, and Sharky Stiles and Freddie Ericson helped in the construction. Transportation was furnished by Percy Colton and Alaska Transfer, Bill Pervo, Jr. furnished his theatre for retakes, and Jack Keller furnished some set props. The Pullen House was the scene of some important interior shots; while Dyea, Lynn Canal, and the valley itself were extensively photographed. This picture boasts also of two new songs: THIS IS RIO and JABBERTOWN.

STEP OUT WITH THE REST OF THE TOWN TO THE CARNIVAL



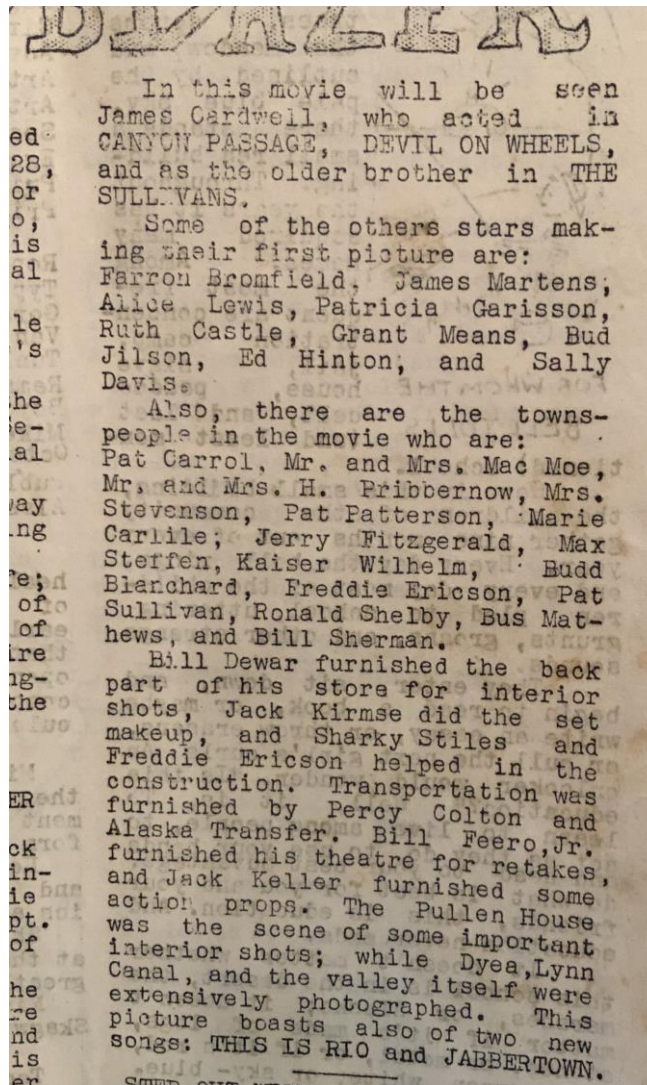
(Harpoon Story_School Newspaper_closeup1.jpg)

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cont'd next column

(Harpoon Story_School Newspaper_closeup2.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And I have a copy of that movie, luckily. Although it's not listed anywhere, somebody found it and got me a copy of that, so uh. [00:36:31] And years later -- see, I'm an autograph collector. I started collecting autographs when I was a teenager, so I have probably 30,000 celebrity autographs, worth \$300,000 right now that I've collected.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: And one of the actors I wrote to is the actor of that movie, John Bromfield, who had his own TV show in the '60's, and became a really good actor after he made his debut in this whaling picture.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And so, he sent me photographs and told me what they did when they were not filming. They went to the movies and stuff like that, and um, and Karen Alexander, I have some photos from that and sent those to me. So I was able to do a three-page spread on making that movie that I put in my "Tales and Legends" thing, which you can see.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. And you're using that as the basis for that next book?

CARL NORD: Yeah, so that fifth book was a combination of a dream sequence, where Andy, the main character, pictures his family back during the gold rush.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, cool.

CARL NORD: Meeting Soapy Smith.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: And doing all the things that were going on in the -- and the real part is where they're down watching the movie being made. So it's a combination of dream sequence --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.

CARL NORD: -- mixed in with actually what was going on in town at the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: So the next one was gonna be, which I still hope will be, "The Alaska Ghost Story," which will be centered on Halloween, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Which was a big deal in Skagway.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Halloween in Skagway was unlike anything you could have anywhere else. It was just --

KAREN BREWSTER: Before we get into Halloween --

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[00:38:00]KAREN BREWSTER: Let's finish your -- your -- your teachers.

CARL NORD: Ok. Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: We left off with third grade with Edna Rapuzzi.

CARL NORD: Right. Ok, Edna Rapuzzi was the third and fourth grade teacher for the rest of that year. Then Elizabeth Thomas, uh, part Native, came in, and she was wonderful. She had the third and fourth grade the next year when I was in the fourth grade, and that's when we started having class officers. And I was the first class president of our class.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: And I had no idea what to do.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, so what does that --

CARL NORD: We'd call the meeting. "What am I supposed to do?" "Tap the gavel." So we learned all about that because by the time you got to fifth and sixth grade, you did have that. I don't know if they had anything like that in high school. I think they probably had something different up there, some kind of clubs and stuff like that. But fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade always had class officers, and money-making projects, and all kinds of little things like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: So --

CARL NORD: So Elizabeth Thomas was there for that year.

[00:38:59]KAREN BREWSTER: So when you were class president in fourth grade, do you remember what you did?

CARL NORD: No, not especially. No. Just -- just like a general meeting type thing, you'd have new business and old business, and we'd start having business. We'd start doing things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I was going to say, what was the business?

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. Right. So that's what we -- basically, we were learning how a meeting is conducted and stuff like that, so by the time we got to fifth and sixth grade, we were all ready to go.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you don't remember any of the specific business you carried out?

CARL NORD: Things were -- the fifth and sixth grade had a small museum case, which I'm sure they still have, and every year, artifacts from the gold rush and stuff would be donated. And Andy, my main kid, is in charge of that and writing little cards explaining the new items that they got from the gold rush 'cause they still know some of the actual people that were at the gold rush --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- who are donating things like that. So that was one of the main things like that. And I said, there was sometimes some little money-making things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: To make a little, so you'd have a treasury.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And so you'd sell, like, a bake sale or something?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Something like that, yeah.

[00:40:02]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So fifth grade?

CARL NORD: Fifth grade was Lottie Gaffy, who taught for twenty-three years and retired after my fifth grade. So I'm really glad I had her. And she made me stand in the corner.

KAREN BREWSTER: So how do you spell her last name?

CARL NORD: G-A-F-F-Y.

KAREN BREWSTER: And why did you have to stand in the corner?

CARL NORD: Well, Joe Judson, the Indian boy in our class, and I were playing pencil-grabbing. And, of course, who got caught? I got caught grabbing his pencil. So mainly that's just embarrassing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: You had to go stand in the corner for half an hour, like that. See, so there's no favoritism there, see, 'cause she was a good friend of my mother's and all that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And she was really strict in the older days, we found out. Boy, she had that ruler out and stuff like that. But by the time we had her, she'd mellowed quite a bit. But she -- Everybody says she's the best teacher we ever had like that because she really knew her business of teaching, you know. So we were lucky, so. I remember --

KAREN BREWSTER: So did she ever hit anybody with the ruler?

CARL NORD: Nope, not in my year.

KAREN BREWSTER: But that was the rumor, she used to?

CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You'd hear things like that from older people. Once they're out of school, now, you know, "Oh, she was really tough, but she was our best teacher, you know." No one ever said she was anything but our best teacher, so like that. So anyway.

[00:41:20]Then we had Leah Mackia.

KAREN BREWSTER: How do you spell that?

CARL NORD: Mackia, that's what I was thinking, how do you spell her name? M-C -- somewhere, I got that written down. L-E-A-H for her first name.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Say the name again?

CARL NORD: Mackia. M-A-C-K-I-A, something very similar to that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah, so I only had her for half the year because that's when we moved down here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: And she was quite good to us. So we -- except for the third grade there a little bit, we really had good teachers. So.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And then Gail Brimhall was the seventh and eighth grade teacher, and I would've had her the next year, and she was really good, too. She was there for quite a few years. And I've been in touch with her daughter and stuff, so I got a lot of information and pictures of her.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great. [00:42:09]Um, do you remember some of the things you -- the subjects you were learning?

CARL NORD: Well, I had my kids -- You know, I remember doing the Ancient Egyptians. Drawing Egyptian things, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: That was fun. And I can't find any samples. Lot of times, they turned those things in and we never got 'em back again, you know. And I remember my favorite thing to draw was, like, alpine meadows with flowers and trees and mountains and stuff, and I can't find any of those, either, so. But I have a lot of other artwork that we did.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you did a lot of artwork, right?

CARL NORD: Right. You know, used to -- for Halloween, we used to make hearts with lace things and glue them all together.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, for Valentine's Day, you mean?

CARL NORD: Yeah, what'd I say?

KAREN BREWSTER: You said Halloween.

CARL NORD: Ok. I'm always doing that.

KAREN BREWSTER: I just wanted to make sure.

CARL NORD: It wasn't that Valentine's Day was like Halloween, either. No, we had a Valentine box. That was very popular. That was down here when we came. So if you had Valentines for anybody, you ran around to different rooms and put them in the box. And then on Valentine's Day, everybody opened the box up, and one person would be a run around to deliver the Valentines. 'Course, I have every Valentine I ever got, so uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you did get some?

CARL NORD: Yeah. So I don't have the ones I gave away, but I have the ones that were given to me, so that was the big thing. But we -- you know, on Washington's birthday, we did silhouettes of Washington and Lincoln, too, like that. And pasted them on to things and made fancy things like that. We did a lot of artwork.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it sounds like a lot of arts and crafts.

CARL NORD: Yeah, and a lot of drawing. [00:43:35]And uh, my worst class was penmanship. That was the first D I ever got was in penmanship.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: You know, you had to make straight lines like that and then circles like this, you know, and I was like --

KAREN BREWSTER: And keep it in the lines.

CARL NORD: How come I couldn't do it better than that? I look at those things now. You look at your early writing when you were a little kid, how you wrote these big letters and it runs off the end of the page.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Then you come down here and continue a word down here, then you run off the bottom. Like, how come I couldn't go straight across?

KAREN BREWSTER: So did you use -- have that kind of paper that had the lines?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That you had to keep in the lines?

CARL NORD: Yeah, uh-huh.

KAREN BREWSTER: And they taught you cursive, too, right?

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. Yeah. We cursed the cursive. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you?

CARL NORD: Not really, no.

[00:44:12]KAREN BREWSTER: So what was your favorite subject?

CARL NORD: Oh, gee. Spelling was my best thing. I was the top speller in all my grades. And that's from reading a lot. I learned how to read before I even got in the first grade.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: I have a picture of when I'm two years old, and I'm starting to read already when I'm two years old, as I'm sitting in my parent's laps and there's a special photograph taken of that by one of the photographers, you know, like that. (Carl Nord_reading_Xmas 1941.jpg)



And so, I loved reading books, so. I read all the books in the library, probably three, four times. All the Hardy Boys, which only went up to 1945 or something. They didn't have anything after that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: And my sister was reading Nancy Drew books when she was in second grade. Like that, yeah.

[00:44:58]KAREN BREWSTER: So did your parents read to you? Is that how you learned to read?

CARL NORD: Yeah. My mom. My dad -- my dad didn't, no. My dad -- we didn't have a newspaper in those days. He used to be reading Life magazine or something in the evening, you know, so. My mom read to us all the time, yeah, so. Winnie the Pooh was my favorite, so. And "Wind in the Willows."

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: So I still have those original books. And I still have the original "Alice in Wonderland" and "Alice Through the Looking-Glass." And "Paddle-to-the-Sea." You know what that is, the little --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the little boat?

CARL NORD: The little boat that goes down over the waterfalls and gets all the way to the sea. It's a picture book.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You know, so I still have all those books. I took care of my books. There's a lot of toys I guess I didn't take care of 'cause they disappeared.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: When my room got too messy, my dad came in with a shovel and started doing like that and took it out and burned it in the trash thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: I lost some good things that way. But I sure learned to keep a neat room.

[00:45:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So yeah, what were your parents like, were -- were as disciplinarians? Or what was your household like?

CARL NORD: Yeah, I think I got two little spankings like the boys got in the Christmas book. That was to show what punishment was. And then, that gave me a thing for the kid to work his way back in good. So you had to have some kind of stuff between things. You can't have everything smooth and nice all the way through.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You gotta have things that intertwine.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So you got some spankings from your dad?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. I don't -- I know I got one, and I probably got two, but I learned very early, if you tell the truth, you don't get punished.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even if you did something --

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. The one time I remember getting punished was I talked back to my dad. I don't know what I said, but I surely didn't use any swear words 'cause I didn't know any swear words.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: But that -- and the other one, I cannot remember what I -- what I did there. But I sure learned not to do those things again. My sister never got punished 'cause she was a perfect little kid. So.

KAREN BREWSTER: She was the baby.

[00:46:52]CARL NORD: I even have the girl in my thing went through those because they ran around over by the river, not telling anybody where they were, and the whole town was looking for them and thought they'd died or something like that. And so, they had to learn the lessons that we are not supposed to go to the river until a certain age.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: 'Cause my mom found me floating in one of those little ponds next to the river in my inflated suit keeping me afloat in the -- sitting in the water, like, when I was three years old. I'd wandered away from home and gone over to the river, like that. 'Cause I don't remember that at all. I just remember that from what I heard, but um, so by the time we got older, we knew about staying away 'cause that's -- that could get -- in the spring, it could be rushing down there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: But I remember in the winter walking on top of it when it was totally frozen, but it was all bumpy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause we couldn't do our sleds on it because it was too bumpy, you know, from all the spray and everything that froze and things like that, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: But so, for -- did any kid ever drown?

CARL NORD: Um, in the lake. Yeah, one kid drowned in the lake. One of the Indian boys.

KAREN BREWSTER: In Dewey Lake?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But nobody drowned in the river?

CARL NORD: No, nobody drowned. [00:48:09]But the river would overflow in the winter sometimes, or in the spring.

KAREN BREWSTER: In the spring, right.

CARL NORD: And 'cause I remember my dad carrying my mom across the street and through - - because it was full of water. And they were sandbagging along the river to -- in certain places, to keep it from overflowing. I remember like that, so it could get pretty high at times with the snow melting.

KAREN BREWSTER: But it didn't ever get into your house or anything?

CARL NORD: No, we didn't have a basement or anything like that, so we didn't have to worry about that.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause you guys were on that side of town, closest to the river?

CARL NORD: Yeah, we were close to the river. Yeah. There was only one set of houses between us and the river. And it -- what the airport is now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Where the runway is, like that. And then the river, so. It was pretty close, yeah.

[00:48:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it's interesting, yeah, that you were taught from a young age to stay away from the river, and kids actually listened?

CARL NORD: Yeah. We -- we -- I got it with a birch branch. That's what -- my dad would go out and cut a birch branch. And I do not remember the actual spanking at all. I do not remember that. I just remember hiding behind my mom when he was going out to do it. And uh, my best friends got the razor strap.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: And they usually got it for fighting between themselves and things like that. That's why I had these kids get into a big argument and break a window and really do something serious.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Where the dad really got mad. And then the dad kinda repents later that he wished he hadn't've done that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: They get a sandwich later on, and stuff like that. Once the punishment was over, that was it. That ended it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Everything was back to normal the next day.

KAREN BREWSTER: And as you said, you learned from it. You didn't do it again.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. So uh.

[00:49:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah. So let's talk about Halloween.

CARL NORD: Yeah, Halloween. Course, you could cover the whole town on Halloween. We'd probably start about five o'clock because you know it was dark by the time we got home from school.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, because --

CARL NORD: On Halloween.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because of the mountains blocking -- ?

CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah, that's partly, and also 'cause it was getting into winter, you know, by then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So we could start really early, and we could be through with our trick-or-treating by like seven o'clock. 'Cause the big kids would go out and do the naughty stuff later on, see.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

CARL NORD: Like that, you know. So anyway, we'd get -- put on our masks. And we'd usually get masks, and sometimes we did ghosts with a sheet over us and stuff like that. But one year, I had this pig mask. It was a red pig mask. And when I got home, the dye in the mask and the sweat on my face had all gotten together, and I took off the mask, and I didn't need a mask. So I think -- I don't remember. I was kinda into cowboy stuff in those days, so I might've done that. 'Cause I had guns and holsters, and we -- I wasn't allowed to have any fireworks except Fourth of July, but I was able to have cap pistol and all the caps I wanted. In fact, I went to the hardware store, and ran out of caps, and he was open and he sold me some caps even though I didn't have any money. Mr. Durr, Bill Durr, did that. Yeah, sold me some caps so I'd have plenty of caps. You'd get a whole roll, and you could shoot caps on and on like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Like that, so.

[00:51:14]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was thinking about the Halloween costumes. Did people make their own costumes?

CARL NORD: Yeah, it was very simple things. We didn't go into -- you know, you watch some of the TV shows where the family decorates the whole house and they have all this. We never did anything like that. We had cut-out things that we made at school that we put in the windows and hung a few things like that around, but we didn't decorate the whole house or anything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you carve pumpkins?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Where did the pumpkins come from?

CARL NORD: Well, they got there somewhere, somehow or other, 'cause we didn't grow 'em there, that's for sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah. So just like at Christmas, we got oranges, you know, to put in the stockings and all that kind of stuff. But anyway, we'd take our sack out, and we'd start hitting all the houses, you know. And you'd get a sack full and you'd have to run home, get a new sack. And then finally we said, "Hey. What if we take a pillow case? We won't have to go home in between." And some of the stores would stay open, and they'd give you a dime if you went into the store. They didn't give you candy or stuff, but they'd give you a dime. So we'd get some dimes in the stores like that. [00:52:15]And uh, but also, there was a Christ -- a Halloween program. Just like the Christmas program.

KAREN BREWSTER: At school?

CARL NORD: Where all the classes put on little skits. I know we did "Little Black Sambo" one year, where we took coffee cans and put strips of paper around to look like stacks of pancakes. We took gunnysacks and painted stripes on 'em for the tigers. And then we did things like that. And uh, then there was a carnival afterwards. And the school would make \$212.86 or something, with our carnival. You know, with a fish thing where you throw your line over and they'd peek through and see who we are, and then they'd put something on your line and you pull it back. 'Cause you're paying a nickel or something to do this, you know. And guess how many beans are in the jar to win a clock, and I was waiting for 'em to call that night that I'd won the clock. But I never did, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: You never did?

CARL NORD: You know, you're so sure that your number was right, like 397 beans in the jar.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And uh, so we did the program, and we did that, and then we had the trick-or-treating, which was um, usually on the Saturday night after Christmas -- or Halloween.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the programs and the carnival was at the school on Halloween?

CARL NORD: Yeah, that was in the gymnasium, so. No, you know what? I think we did -- no, it was the other way around. We had the program on the weekend. Right. The program on the weekend, and the trick-or-treating was done whenever -- whichever day it was.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Yeah, that's right. Yeah.

[00:53:38]KAREN BREWSTER: So what other carnival games? Like, uh --

CARL NORD: Toss -- toss the little loop of ropes over the pegs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like ring toss?

CARL NORD: Yeah, ring toss. There you go. And um, guessing games.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Like guessing how many things in -- and then the fishing thing. And darts. I don't think they did darts in balloons like they do now. I think we were shooting into a dartboard or something like that, and you get so many points, and you could win something.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was thinking like a beanbag toss or something, maybe?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. All kinds of little games like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Bobbing for apples?

CARL NORD: No. But the other thing on Halloween, at the Presbyterian church, they'd have a spook show in the little meeting room where the Cub Scouts met and stuff, in the back in a little separate building behind the Presbyterian church.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: And so, you had to get through the hallway with the ghosts that would pop out and scare you. And once you got in the back room, you could bob for apples, and have fun, you know. And do all kinds of stuff like that. And uh, so that -- See, I want to get all that in the Halloween story, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right.

CARL NORD: Yeah. All those different kinds of things that happened. [00:54:41]Now the big kids, I've got some stories from them, what they actually did. They didn't do nasty things, but they'd take people's garbage cans and hide 'em two blocks away. They'd remove fences and stick 'em over here in the woods somewhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really?

CARL NORD: And one thing they did, they'd climb up the poles and unscrew the light bulbs of the street lamps.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh my goodness.

CARL NORD: Well, the sheriff caught 'em one day, and they all had to go climb up the pole and put all the --

KAREN BREWSTER: That had to put them back?

CARL NORD: -- the light bulbs back. Yeah. I got a complete story, one of the guys that did that, so um, and all that. But the next morning at school, all the boys in high school were taken around town to put everything back again. Whether they were doing it or not. That was a regular thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah. They knew --

[00:55:33]KAREN BREWSTER: What about the girls?

CARL NORD: The girls didn't do things like that. No. Girls went trick-or-treating, and I don't remember them doing anything else for Halloween except when they were little they'd go trick-or-treating. I don't remember them having any dances or -- they worked at the carnival.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah, they did work the carnival and stuff like that. Of course, they appeared on stage, singing or doing skits and stuff like that, because everybody in school would do something for that show, so. So uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, but the -- um. So even the high school kids, they would go trick-or-treating?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

CARL NORD: No. You did it about 'til sixth grade, and then after that you joined the run-around-town-and-do-mischief group. Or stayed at home if you didn't do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [00:56:15]And in that days -- like, you know, in my time, one of the pranks was toilet papering somebody's house.

CARL NORD: Oh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did they do that?

CARL NORD: No. Soaping windows. If somebody didn't give you any treats, you soaped their windows.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what's soaping their windows? What did that mean?

CARL NORD: You'd get a big bar of Ivory soap and just make something that has to be washed off the next day. You know, ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: But uh, what was the other thing you said?

KAREN BREWSTER: Toilet papering.

CARL NORD: Oh, toilet papering. No, they didn't do that. I don't remember them doing that. But that -- that was -- seems like down here something like that happened or something.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that's a later time period, maybe.

CARL NORD: Yeah, I think so. Just take a roll of toilet paper and heave it over a tree so that it goes (sound effect).

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right. It's a total waste of paper.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But that is a more recent kind of pranking.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[00:57:10]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and as you said, you could -- town was small enough that you could trick-or-treat at every house?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, do you --

CARL NORD: We never soaped any windows because everybody had something for us. Now some people would make you do a trick to get the treat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: I mean, that's part of trick-or-treat is, you do a trick or recite a poem or do a dance or something, and then you get the treat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Yeah. So it should be trick-and-treat.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's right.

CARL NORD: Trick-and-treat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, so what -- besides --

CARL NORD: The other trick-or-treat I think maybe originated, if you didn't get a treat, you did a trick on them. I think that --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that's --

CARL NORD: I think that's the original thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that's -- that's what I thought it was.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. So I think later on, if some people would take it the other way around. You do the trick, and we give you the treat, see, so the trick would be nice.

KAREN BREWSTER: So besides a poem and a dance, what else -- what was the trick you would do?

CARL NORD: Um, usually we recited something.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah, recited something. 'Cause most of us didn't know how to dance.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was going to say, it's not like you could do a magic trick.

CARL NORD: Oh, right. No, no. Something you just do. Say a little poem or something like that, you know.

[00:58:19]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what kind of treats they gave out?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Jelly beans, Hershey -- uh, candy corn, Hershey bars, um, bubble gum, jaw breakers. I learned that I'd get my big sack full of candy, you know, I would save all my favorite things for last and eat the other stuff first. By the time I got to the favorite stuff, my dad

had found it and said, "You've had enough candy." And it disappeared, and I didn't get to eat any of my favorite stuff. So after that, I started eating my favorite stuff first, so I could eat that. You know, Hershey bars are one of my favorites anyway, and jelly beans and stuff like that, so. 'Cause mostly you got candy. You didn't get fruit or anything like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: You didn't get cot -- uh, popcorn balls?

CARL NORD: Yeah, popcorn balls. You got that. Um, the Sullivan house, they had -- how many kids did they have? Nine kids. Mrs. Sullivan would give you a little of everything, including popcorn balls. And I figure, their kids are all out there trick-or-treating and bringing it home, and then she could give it to us. Because wow, everybody knew about going to the Sullivan home, you know. And how could they have all that stuff, you know. But the popcorn balls, she actually made herself there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what house it was?

CARL NORD: Yeah. It was the last house over by the airport on the south end of uh, Alaska Street. And then, you know, there's houses on the other side, and it was the last house going south over there where now the airport is, or the airstrip.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it would have been Alaska and --

CARL NORD: That house is not there. The house is not there.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. It would've been, like, Alaska and 1st or 2nd?

CARL NORD: Oh, ok. Then we were at 10th, so that would've been like, oh, probably like 5th or 4th.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Not as far south as the Presbyterian church, and uh, some of that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [01:00:13]And what did Mr. Sullivan do?

CARL NORD: Uh, there was a -- some skull-duggery. He had sex with one of his daughters and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: And that was -- she was taken out of town for a year to have the child, and it was adopted and then came back and all that was -- but everything -- Mrs. Sullivan was the sweetest woman, just the opposite, you know. And he disappeared, you know, like that. So he was never there, so uh, I don't know how she survived, raising seven kids.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Nine kids. And um, course, the ones in school with me were the youngest. So the other ones were in the war. About four of them were in the war, and one of the middle ones was killed in Korea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. But so, she was there, raising those kids by herself?

CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: Course, we didn't know about any of this until years later. We started doing research, and yeah. That was some bad things going on there, and stuff like that.

[01:01:05]KAREN BREWSTER: But you -- you remember that there wasn't a Mr. Sullivan around?

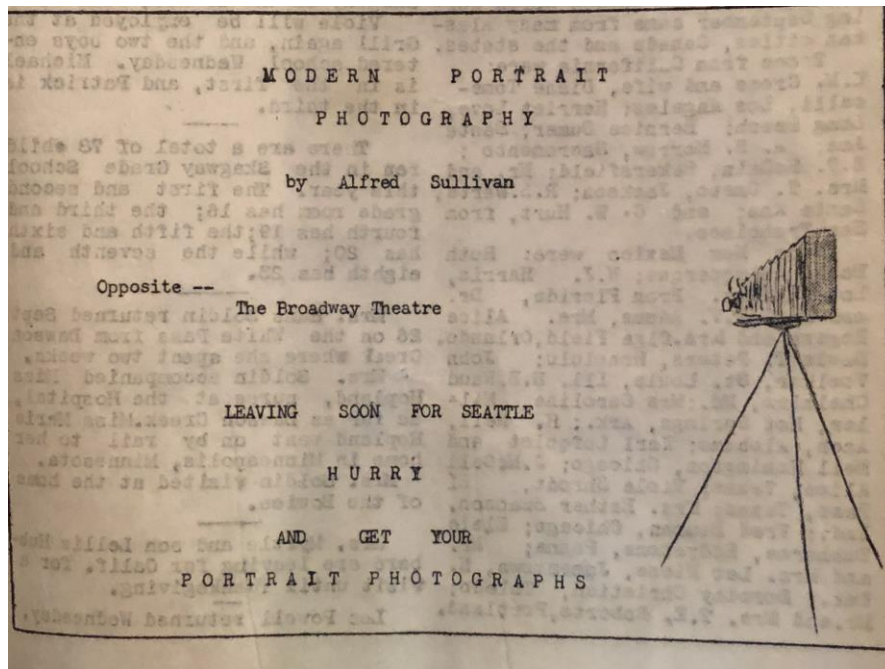
CARL NORD: Well, we never went to that house except for Halloween.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

CARL NORD: I mean, 'cause most of the kids were older than us and were grown up and had left town and stuff like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: One of them became the photographer, town photographer, and took our special pictures when my sister was born. We still got an album. Um, and then he came to Seattle, I think. And he was a cripple of some kind, but very smart and became an outstanding photographer, and that's how he made his living. (Sullivan Photographer Ad.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: And what was his name?

CARL NORD: Uh, Arthur. (Actually was Alfred)

KAREN BREWSTER: Arthur Sullivan?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Oh. Yeah, when we get in the book here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. I'll look at it in your book.

CARL NORD: The kids I went to school with: Mike, that was just below me; Pat that was just above me, um; and Lloyd was killed in the Korean war. And then the other ones, there were two girls. One of them was queen of the Whitehorse celebration that year, and then there were -- yeah, there were three girls. Yeah. They were all among the oldest of the kids.

[01:02:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so what other families do you remember and kids that you were friends with?

CARL NORD: Uh, ok, the Selmers were the ones that came down here with us, and there were all those Selmers that were born there and started the seven different families. (Pauline Selmer.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: So the -- yeah, you said that there was a family that you were good friends with the boy.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And they came down here with you?

CARL NORD: Yeah, that was it. Selmer. That was one of the Selmer families. The Pribbernows, she was a Selmer. The Rares, she was a Selmer. And um, who am I leaving out? And then there were all the boys. And that was one of the big families, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So which Selmer was your close friend?

CARL NORD: Um, that was Louis. Louie Selmer. His daughter -- Louis Dean, who was called Lou D. Lou D. So in the school paper, they didn't know that, and they called him Lutie, L-U-T-I-E. Lutie Selmer. And it was Lou D, like Louis Dean. (Louis D. Selmer and Carl Nord_1942-1943.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause he was named after his uncle, Dean, and after his father. And, of course, having two Louies in the family, you have to have a little difference there, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So uh, so the father was always Louie, so. When they came down here, he was no longer Lou D. He was Louis when they came down here, and his father was Louie, so.

[01:03:38]KAREN BREWSTER: And that's who you say -- you like remained -- he was like a brother?

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. And the girls we went with are Karen and Kay Lamoreaux, uh. (Karen and Kay Lamoreaux and Carl Nord1_FallWinter 1941.jpg)



(Karen and Kay Lamoreaux and Carl Nord2_FallWinter 1941.jpg)



And that was because their parents both worked, so they stayed all summer during the day with their grandparents, who lived right across the street from me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: And that's how we became the best of friends. So all those early years we did that, so. (Carl_Louis_Kay_Karen_bikes.jpg)



(Carl_Louis_Kay_Karen_in grass.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: And they were the same age as you, one of them?

CARL NORD: Yeah, yeah. So two -- one of the girls was in my class, and the other two were a class above me. And two of them became ill and lost a year, so we ended up with one behind us, two with me, and one ahead of me. So it ended up slightly different. Although the one that lost out and went back a year made up for that in high school and was able to graduate with the class that she originated with. She had tuberculosis and was in the hospital down here in Seattle for about a year, and we sent her toys and things. So I sent her marbles 'cause, you know, if you get infectious, you had to throw away the things. Well, marbles, she could wash them and boil 'em, and they can -- wouldn't have to throw them away. So I sent her marbles.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that was smart. [01:04:43]So which one was in your class, Kate or Karen?

CARL NORD: Kay.

KAREN BREWSTER: Kay.

CARL NORD: Who went back a year. And Louie Dean Selmer was with Karen in the class ahead of me, but he missed a year because of illness of one kind when he was in Juneau. His dad went down to Juneau and worked for a little while and then came back again. So he ended up in my class, while Karen was ahead of us the whole time. So, uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And then the Pribbernows and the Nelsons, and um, the Indian family was the Judsons. Joe Judson. A good friend of mine. And his sister was one grade behind us. And the Raffertys. Lot of Raffertys. And the Hessmusses (sp?) and Riewes, had the grocery stores and things like that. And Blanchards. A lot of Blanchards. And Matthews. Whole bunch of Matthews. And the Fullers. And uh, see, (muttering) trying to think. Those are the ones that were in my class, or one below me or one ahead of me, kind of. Gutfelds.

KAREN BREWSTER: What was it?

CARL NORD: Gutfeld. There was only one boy in that family. He was the head guy at the railroad office. Oh, yeah. Oh, Boyntons. There were a bunch of Boyntons. And uh, think of -- oh, McGuane. M-C-G-U-A-N-E, McGuane. We finally caught up with her again. Oh, the Stephensons. Stephensons. Yeah, that was some of our best friends. I'm still in touch with one of the daughters.

KAREN BREWSTER: And like, Bea Lingle was --

CARL NORD: Lingle, uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: That was her married name.

CARL NORD: Yeah. See, she was part of the Burfield family.

KAREN BREWSTER: I know she's older than you.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Now, the Lingles, some of those kids were a lot younger than me, and I didn't even know them. And I learned about them after I started doing research.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And the other ones are way above. They're kind of a -- like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: None anywhere around where I was, so.

[01:07:10]KAREN BREWSTER: And Carl Mulvihill?

CARL NORD: Yeah, he was ahead of me. He was the only kid in his family, yeah. Ok, the Browns. That was my parents' best friends, and those kids were um, in high school when I was in junior high and stuff. But still really good friends. The daughter babysit with me and used to

tell me ghost stories that would scare the hell out of me. 'Til my mother got after her and said, "You quit doing that."

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And -- and -- and the son -- still in touch with both of them. He used to ride me on the handlebars of his bike. And he would always take the bumpiest route downtown that he could find. He'd be going off the sidewalk, drop a whole foot down in there. That was really funny. And he worked in the little, um, fountain that was part of the Golden North Hotel. And we'd go in there once in a while because he was serving things there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like a soda -- a soda fountain?

CARL NORD: Yeah. So um, he'd give us a pine float. You know what a pine float is?

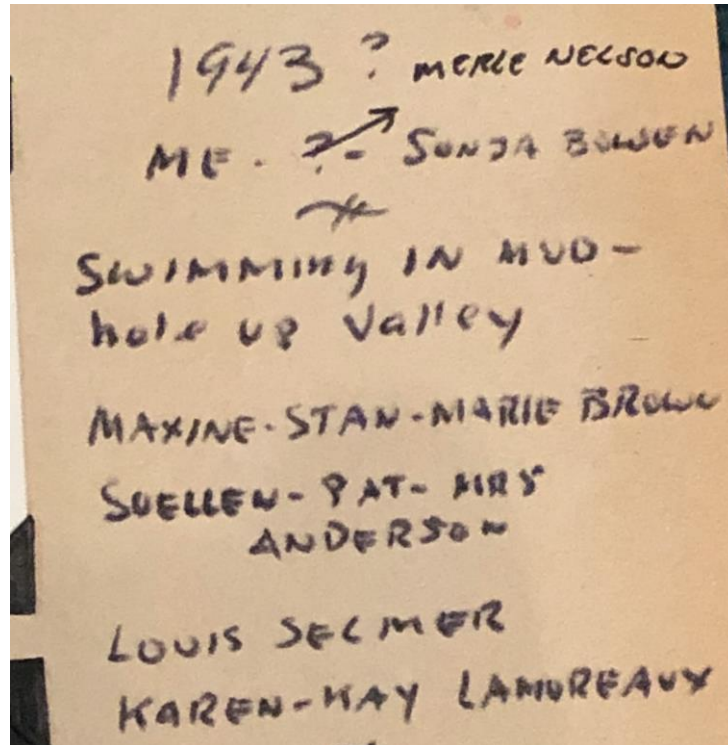
KAREN BREWSTER: No.

CARL NORD: Toothpick floating in water. And stuff like that, you know, so. So anyway, those are some of the families that --

[01:08:24]KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh. And so who were your best friends that you played with the most? (Kids in Mud Hole 1943.jpg)



(Kids in Mud Hole1943_names.jpg)



CARL NORD: Well, yeah. Uh, the Lamoreauxs and Lou D Selmer, and the Browns, even though they were older. And the Stephensons, 'cause they were the same age as us. And the Blanchards, the Boyntons, and uh, Pribbernows. Yeah. Those are the ones I palled around with the most, you know, one way or another, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And so the -- you said the Browns were your parents' best friends.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What did Mr. Brown do?

CARL NORD: Um, I was trying to think. He worked at the dock.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: He was much older than his wife. And they remained friends with us until the early -- the mid-'60's, when they took a sight-seeing trip over the glaciers and never came back. It's still up there. The plane is still up there. They never found the plane.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, it was a plane crash.

CARL NORD: Yeah. And I heard that on the radio down here, and I couldn't believe it, you know, because they had moved to San Francisco, and when I was in the army, I visited them in San Francisco. They sent me a telegram. Um, when I was in the army in Korea, I worked in an office and lived in a barracks and all that, but I put in for recruiting duty, and I got that in Los Angeles, and lived in an apartment, and so I -- one day I got a telegram in my apartment. Holy cow, telegrams are usually bad news. No, you are invited to come and have dinner with -- they were in town. From San Francisco, they were in town at one of the hotels or something, and so they wanted me to come and have dinner with them. 'Cause I didn't have a telephone in my apartment.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Now, are they related to Phyllis Brown?

CARL NORD: No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: It's a different family? Ok.

CARL NORD: She was Phyllis Olson. Phyllis Olson. Yeah. And um, her dad worked in the railroad office with ours, and she's the one, when I did my first trip to Skagway, took the Seattle ferry up, met me at the ferry with a sign, "Carl Nord," 'cause we didn't know what each other looked like 'cause last time I'd seen her, she was wearing pigtails, and it was about in eighth grade or something like that. And so, she got me a special rate at the Golden North Hotel, and we went up to the lake together and Yakutania Point together, and all kinds of things. So the two trips I was up there in those early days, she was my main guide.

[01:10:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Neat. Um, so tell me what Skagway was like with the military there.

CARL NORD: See now, they pulled out in '45, so about the time I remembered things. Um, this is a story my mom told, and I seem to kinda remember it. No one was allowed to leave town, and my mother and another mother and us two little toddlers went up to the bridge at the north end of town, and the guard said, "You can't go." And we disregarded the guard and went across the river anyway, and up into there, and nothing ever happened. So that -- that's about the only thing I remember about the army, and I remember it most because my mom told me the story, you know, like that. Other than that, I just remember what the army left behind.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: We got a Quonset hut, and a great big cupboard, which half of it was for hanging clothes, and the other half was shelves. These are things from the barracks, I suppose. And things like that, you could get. I don't remember actually getting these, but I remember living with them after we got them, you know, so.

[01:11:59]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So you guys actually got a Quonset hut? (Quonset Hut.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That you put on the property?

CARL NORD: Yeah. And my dad had it -- aluminum siding put on to protect it from the storm. The whole front half was storing garden supplies, fishing supplies, and all that. I've written a whole article about this and sent it to the "Good Old Days" magazine, and I'm hoping they're going to print it one of these days.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Because the whole history of the Quonset hut is in that story.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

CARL NORD: My sister went on the Internet and got the story of the Quonset hut for me. It was Quonset, Rhode Island, is where they started building them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right.

CARL NORD: And that's where they started making them. And they were easy to transport, and they're used for barracks, and they're used for storage, and all this stuff.

KAREN BREWSTER: They were easy to put up.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So but it's interesting that they either gave or your dad bought --

CARL NORD: I suppose he bought it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: You had to buy it from the army.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then moved it to your property.

CARL NORD: But there -- it wouldn't have cost very much 'cause my dad wasn't making that much money working for the railroad.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[01:12:52]CARL NORD: See, my dad worked for the army in the railroad office 'cause they took over the railroad.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Yeah, you know, to ship all the stuff for the Alcan Highway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: So it was run by the army. So he was like, in the army as a civilian. A civilian in the army.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah. But anyway, in the back end of the thing, half of it was a green house, with a cutting in it, with screening and stuff to keep the cold out but to let the sun in, and the other half was a chicken house. Which we raised our own eggs, and I went around and delivered eggs to people for ten cents a dozen, and a penny for every carton I brought back home. Which got me a lot of money. I could make a dollar and ten cents a week on that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, so you got to keep the money?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: It didn't go to your mom or dad.

CARL NORD: No, that was -- the people paid my dad by the month or something, you know, separate.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

CARL NORD: But whatever I delivered, I got ten cents for every dozen I delivered, and one penny for every empty carton that I brought back so they'd have it to fill up again, see, so. That

was -- that was part of mowing the clover lawn and probably hoeing in the garden and a few things like that.

[01:13:57]KAREN BREWSTER: Did you have to clean out the chicken coop?

CARL NORD: Yeah, but I didn't do it. No. That went into the vegetable garden.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But you didn't have to do it?

CARL NORD: No. I didn't have to do that. No. I loved gathering eggs. That was fun. I didn't like to have to lift the chicken off 'cause I was afraid I was going to get pecked, but I liked to look in the straw and find, ooh, boy, another egg, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, do you know where the chickens came from originally?

CARL NORD: No. We -- we bought 'em. So they must've been shipped up by boat, I would imagine.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: From where we got 'em. We had Rhode Island reds and Plymouth whites. Mostly Rhode Island reds 'cause most of 'em were a reddish-brown chicken. And uh, so -- and the eggs in those days were twice as big as the eggs you get in the store today.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really?

CARL NORD: You know, you get these, 'bout that size. They're called pullet eggs down here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. Those little --

CARL NORD: I mean, up there, they were called pullet eggs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Up there? Because they were so small.

CARL NORD: Yeah. They were called large brown eggs down here. So everything was that much bigger up there, you know.

[01:14:55]KAREN BREWSTER: What were you feeding the chickens?

CARL NORD: Uh, scratch, which was like trail mix, I suppose. All kinds of different seeds.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And we used to eat that by the handful.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. You used to eat it?

CARL NORD: Yeah. It came in a gunnysack. You'd get a whole gunnysack's full, and we'd chew that stuff like you'd eat trail mix down here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: 'Cause it was corn in there and all kinds of different seeds. And you have a mash, which you mix, like in a trough, with water.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

CARL NORD: You know, make a big mush-type thing. That also came in a -- not a burlap bag, but in a cloth bag like that. And uh, and we fed 'em oyster shells.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: You know, to help make good shells for the eggs, and supposed to clean out their gullets, or whatever it was.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: They had all kinds of things like that. So that's what was part in the Quonset hut, was all those sacks of that stuff.

[01:15:44]KAREN BREWSTER: So did you collect oyster shells from the beach? No?

CARL NORD: You bought that ground up oyster shells.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Somehow or other. Yeah, you might have been able to get that at the hardware store or something like that, 'cause other people had chickens, too, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then did you feed them kitchen scraps?

CARL NORD: No. Kitchen scraps probably went to the cat or the dog or in the vegetable garden. Whatever.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, composting.

CARL NORD: And we did grow kale and gave to the chickens. Yeah, we did give them stuff from the garden. Cabbage leaves and kale. I remember kale was one of the favorite ones to give them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, your --

CARL NORD: So they had an outdoor pen that they could run around in, and then live in the inside during the night and, of course, during the winter, so. And we had a stove out there, so it kept warm so the young plants, seeds planted in there, were kept nice and warm even though we did it in probably April or --

[01:16:36]KAREN BREWSTER: So yeah, it was sort of like a little greenhouse area.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: In the back of the Quonset hut?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Great big bins, built up high, and everything was planted in those big bins, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow, yeah. That's like now this tunnel -- high-tunnel kind of gardening that they do.

CARL NORD: Uh-huh.

KAREN BREWSTER: These big greenhouse things.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So I guess your dad built all that.

CARL NORD: Yeah. And I don't remember how, but there was some kind of screen that let the sun in but did not let the cold in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Did you open --

CARL NORD: Where it was cut -- no, it didn't open. A hole was cut in the Quonset, and the aluminum siding was put around that. So the screen -- so you could kinda see outside. You could see the light. You couldn't distinguish anything like a window.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And -- but the sun could get heat in there, but the cold did not penetrate that, and it was not covered or anything in the winter, so. I always wonder how you could sit in a greenhouse and the sun's shining on you, and you're feeling all that nice warmth, but you sit in the greenhouse when it's blowing outside, and you don't feel that at all. How does the heat get through the glass to you, but not the cold?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep. That's -- I don't know. But um, in that greenhouse, did they grow things all year round?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

CARL NORD: It's just we started all the seeds and then my mom would put 'em out in the vegetable garden or the flower gardens in May, probably.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. [01:17:53]And did you do work in the gardens?

CARL NORD: Yeah. I remember peat moss. The smell of peat moss is really good. The chicken house smelled awful. The greenhouse smelled nice.

KAREN BREWSTER: So did she use the peat moss to keep the weeds down?

CARL NORD: Uh, no, it was just mixed in with the soil.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like composting.

CARL NORD: Right. Right, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you use fish guts and things?

CARL NORD: No. That went out in the cabbage and the potato patch and all that kind of stuff, all that. 'Cause, uh, we used to bring in maybe a dozen halibut or something, and my dad would filet them all, and then all the stuff would go in the garden. And we'd give the filet to all the people 'cause the only place we had to refrigerate anything was a little thing above our ice box. The refrigerator was called an ice box, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You know, where you had ice cube trays or ice cream, and that's the only place you could keep maybe a little halibut, so you had to eat it right away.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. Yeah, so refrigeration was an electric refrigerator, or did you -

-

CARL NORD: Yeah, electric. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: You didn't have to do the big chunks of ice and --

CARL NORD: No, huh-uh. [01:18:53]Now we had a coal bin out in our shed.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: But by the time I was old enough to know anything, we had oil heat, so that coal was still there when we left.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. You didn't use -- you didn't heat with coal?

CARL NORD: No. But they must've before, or we wouldn't have a bin of coal out there, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: We must've had coal stoves to start with and then graduated into the oil heat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Because we had a big oil drum right along the fence, and the guy would come there in the alley and fill them up. We had elderberry bushes growing around the oil drums so they wouldn't look so bad, and I used to know that the blue jays loved elderberries, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: That's why down here, if we could have elderberries somewhere -- but they also eat some of these other berries. Like mountain ash down here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: They'll be a lot of blue jays in there, eating mountain ash berries, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. [01:19:45]And then what about the cook stove that your mom cooked on?

CARL NORD: That's just a regular electric range.

KAREN BREWSTER: Electric. Ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah. And she had a mangle for ironing clothes.

KAREN BREWSTER: What's a mangle?

CARL NORD: A mangle is an automatic -- instead of ironing with a thing like that, you run 'em through like you run the clothes through a wringer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: It's like you run your sheets and stuff through a mangle. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I've never heard of such a thing. I only know, you know, you iron on an ironing board.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. We had that, too, for the shirts and stuff, but some of the towels and stuff like that went through the mangle, so.

[01:20:19]KAREN BREWSTER: And then did she have a hand wringer washing machine?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Uh, the washing machine, you know, on rollers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: You know, roll it in and out like that with the wringers. And it was fun putting the clothes through the wringers. I had the kids doing that in the -- in the snowstorm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh, right.

CARL NORD: Where the younger kid forgets his watch in the pocket, and that goes through, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. And then they'd -- then you'd hang 'em around the house to dry?

CARL NORD: And we'd rinse them in the deep sink, and then run those through like that. So we didn't rinse them in the same thing where we washed them, you know, like drained it and did that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: No, we did that in the deep sink. So, uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then you'd hang it around the house?

CARL NORD: The thing was, you didn't want to get your arm caught in there. But somebody got their arm caught in one of those. Course, that stopped it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: I just heard about it. I wasn't there when it happened. We were always very careful not to get our fingers into that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So was it an electric wringer?

CARL NORD: Yeah, it was an electric washer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And then you'd hang 'em out on the clothes line?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or inside?

CARL NORD: Or in the porch. But we'd hang 'em out in the winter and freeze dry 'em and bring 'em in, too, so. Then you have to dry 'em all the way, but that would get most of the moisture out of them, so.

[01:21:34]KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Uh, ok, I was going to ask you something else about -- so what did Skagway look like? As you say, 'cause the military already kinda was pulling out.

CARL NORD: Yeah. They set up all the things in vacant lots, and um, we found a lot of -- we -- we owned the lot next to our property, which we never developed. And so, that was turned over to the army so they could keep their big machines and stuff in there. I remember that's what was

kept in there just before they pulled out. That's what they used it for. And but, they didn't take over people's houses or anything like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: I imagine some people took in soldiers, though. Uh, for rent, and get rent money, and stuff like that. I would imagine they did that. We didn't do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you don't remember any of the buildings and what was around them.

CARL NORD: No. They were very quick things, mostly like Quonset huts and stuff that could be removed really quick. I mean, they didn't come in and build a whole new town or anything like that, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:22:34]And you don't remember that -- what ten thousand extra people around town?

CARL NORD: Well, I don't know if all ten thousand were there at one time or not, but, I mean, that's what they always say. "Ten thousand people lived there" during that war, you know, but, I mean, some guys came in and probably went out and worked on the highway, and they brought another group in to take their place.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So I don't think there were ten thousand there at one time, 'cause we didn't even have one thousand of our own people, you know, so.

[01:22:57]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, you said that your dad at the railroad, it was taken over for army operations.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember him talking about that?

CARL NORD: No. So back -- basically, he did the same thing. It's just that they decided what was going to be shipped.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And how often it was shipped and all that. But the people just did their normal work. Probably had more work to do than normal.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: But since all that stuff was going up to the highway-making and all that, so.

[01:23:27]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, well, you had mentioned where your house was in relation to the airport. So what's there now as the big airstrip and the airport? Was that there when you were growing up?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or has that changed?

CARL NORD: That was after we left. Just about the time we left, they put an airstrip in there. Yeah. In fact, they might've done it just before we left. I kinda remember that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did the army do it?

CARL NORD: No. No. No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. Ok. I thought the army --

CARL NORD: Alaska Airlines or somebody or some private -- it was mostly, you know, private planes that came in, you know. You know, that hold six passengers or something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And, uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: So when you were growing up there, there was no airstrip?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Just rocks.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you were -- your way in and out was by boat? By ferry?

CARL NORD: Yeah. No ferries. I don't remember any ferries in those days. It was -- it was, uh, Princess, Canadian Princess ships that came up there. They would be between Seattle -- oh, actually Vancouver. Anybody going south would go as far as Vancouver, and they'd take a train to Seattle. These ships would not go to Seattle. They just went to Vancouver.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: And hit all the Alaska stops on the way, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it was like a ferry, but it was a private --

CARL NORD: Well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it was Canadian.

CARL NORD: There was a -- there was a picture of one in my "Alaska Snowstorm."

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: I drew --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because in that story, the father --

CARL NORD: They would hold -- Yeah, they'd hold quite a few people, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: The father came out to Seattle to visit his father.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So yeah. So they went by steam -- well, they weren't steamships anymore?

CARL NORD: Yes. Yeah, they were called steamships, yeah. Canadian steamships, yeah. And the "Louise" and the "Norah," N-O-R-A-H, were the two that I remember the most that I was on, the couple times we were on that to come down. And I have a lot of pictures of the "Kathleen," and a bunch of -- a whole bunch of others that came up there, so. [01:25:31]I go to postcard clubs and go to the Alaska section and see what I find. (SEE HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM CARL NORD)

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: I found a picture of an eagle who somebody actually sent us, a close-up of the eagle, a postcard that somebody actually sent us. It was now worth thirty dollars.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what's it of?

CARL NORD: Just a picture of an eagle.

KAREN BREWSTER: Of an eagle?

CARL NORD: Postcard of an eagle. It was selling for thirty dollars.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Wow.

CARL NORD: And I have an original one with a message on the back, so.

[01:25:53]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember how long it took by boat from Seattle to Skagway?

CARL NORD: About four days.

KAREN BREWSTER: Four days?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Something like that. Three and a half days. Kinda like the cruise ships right now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: They'd make the whole round trip in one week exactly, so. Probably going about the same speed that the cruise ships go.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Do you remember stops it made and getting off?

CARL NORD: Um, we didn't get off any time. See, we came down in '46. My sister was a little over one year old. I have pictures of us sitting on the deck in chairs and stuff like that. And so, I was seven years old, and so I don't remember that. The only pictures we got from that that I know of were of -- somebody took of our family sitting on the deck like that. So I remember riding the train from Vancouver down to Seattle, though. When we came down here in '51 for good, everything was flooded up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

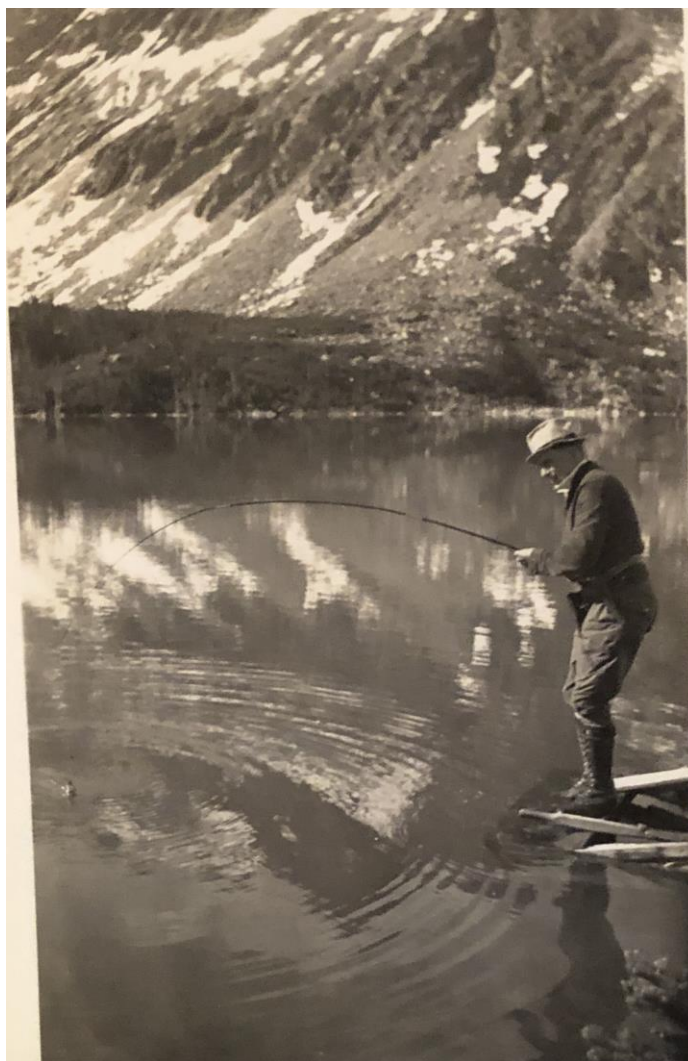
CARL NORD: And we were going through. And um, Risë Stevens, the opera singer, was on our train. Course, I didn't know who Risë Stevens was then. I found out later who she was. So I got her autograph years later, so I'm sure I mentioned that we were on the same train together, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Cool. [01:27:04]Um, other things that you did as a kid. Um, like, did you -- biking, fishing, hiking.

CARL NORD: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: What kinds of things did you guys do for fun?

CARL NORD: Fishing was only with the family, and that was always halibut fishing, except we did a little bit of fishing up at Dewey Lake. 'Cause I remember frying the fish up there one day. (Fred Nord Fishing_Upper Dewey Lake_July 4 1937.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What kind of fish?

CARL NORD: Uh, I remember dropping my orange in the water, and the water right close to shore was about six feet deep, and there was no way to get my orange back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: And uh, well, just before we left, they actually built a basketball thing out in the -- thing at the school, just a wooden platform with a hoop at one end.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: But I remember going up there with a basketball and just shooting. I don't even know if there was a net on the basket. I don't remember. We weren't that particular. Up until then, we were shooting through a barrel hoop in my shed, which was just a little above my hand, and the only way you could make a basket was a lay-in, or shooting it over the top of the rafters. And the other end of the court was only fifteen feet away. And there for Christmas, at the

Christmas thing where at Eagles Hall we went down and everybody got a present, I got a basketball net with a bell on it, so when the ball went through, it rang a bell.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: It would shove a little lever down, "Ding!" Like that. And that was set up in that woodshed, which is really a coal shed because we didn't have -- burn wood. But we called it the woodshed anyway.

[01:28:33]KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you didn't burn wood?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: We couldn't have a fireplace because of the wind. It was too dangerous to have a fireplace.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: I don't remember anybody that had a fireplace up there, but I'm sure some people did. Even the -- uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause it was the idea that it would blow back down and cause a fire?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah, downdrafts and stuff like that, you know. Could blow your ashes out into the living room or something like that, you know, so we never had a fireplace.

[01:28:57]KAREN BREWSTER: So when you -- the halibut fishing, did your family have a boat?

CARL NORD: First of all, we went out on a rowboat, and hopefully that one's going to get published next year, that one. The three of them go out on a rowboat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: They row two miles over to Dyea Point. After that we got a slightly bigger one with an outboard motor, so we were over there in about 1/10 the time, instead of rowing all the way over. And then we got a Chris-Craft inboard motor boat just before we left, so we could (sound effect) right over there.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you and your family really did, you rowed, and then you got a -- ?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Neat. And so the halibut fishing was in the Chris-Craft? (Nord's Chris Craft Boat1.jpg)



(Nord's Chris Craft Boat2.jpg)



CARL NORD: All three boats.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you'd go halibut fishing from a rowboat?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow. How'd you do that?

CARL NORD: Just sit there and throw a line in and -- You had a sinker, so it'd sink at the bottom. See this is bottom fishing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You're not trolling. You're not doing anything like that. So we had sinkers on the line, and we had several hooks with salted herring on the hooks. And the biggest fish I caught

and got in the boat by myself was a twenty-pound halibut. Which I have a picture of me holding it with a gaffe hook. I didn't want to put my hand under his gills or anything. I was holding it with a gaffe hook. So I have that, when I was about eleven, I think, so. And I got one that was so big that we couldn't get it in the boat, and we had to cut the line.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: And I also got a giant skate.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: That was as big as our boat.

(Phone rings)

CARL NORD: If that's important, it'll record.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Uh, and that's another one we had to cut. And that's the only big thing I saw other than a halibut that, uh, was so unusual. That's the only time -- I didn't know there were skates up there, you know. It's kinda like a manta ray, really, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I'm going to pause while the phone rings.

(Break)

[01:30:41]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So that was halibut fishing.

CARL NORD: Oh, ok. Um.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then you said Dewey Lake? (Fred Nord with Fish_Upper Dewey Lake cabin_July 4, 1937.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What kind of fish was up there?

CARL NORD: Trout.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you and your bud -- and your friends didn't go out fishing?

CARL NORD: No. It got rough out there after a while. When we went on our rowboat and the little boat, the outboard motor boat, about noon you could see the whitecaps coming up the bay, and we hurried up, pulled our lines in, and got back to the thing. That's what happens to my people in "SOS at Sea." They're rowing, and they can't get back in time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: The father falls down, hits his head, and is knocked unconscious in the bottom of the boat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: So the two boys row the boat over to Smugglers Cove. The little boy gets out. He's going to run to town and get help, so somebody at the dock can come out and help them with the motor boat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[01:31:32]CARL NORD: And, meanwhile, the older boy is rowing against the waves, these huge waves, with killers of the deep surrounding him. Killer whale.

KAREN BREWSTER: Killer whales.

CARL NORD: Which in those days were man-eaters. I mean, we were afraid of killer whales.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you see killer whales?

CARL NORD: Never saw a killer whale. Porpoises, we loved 'cause they'd -- I always thought that porpoises were shaped like an inner tube because you'd always see just that round hump, until I saw pictures of them and I said, "Is that what a porpoise looks like? I thought they looked like inner tubes." We loved them 'cause they'd come and play around the boat. But we never actually saw a killer whale. But we knew that they existed out there, so to make my story more dangerous --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- I just call them the killer of the deep, because everybody says, "Oh, killer whale. Gee, he can pet him."

KAREN BREWSTER: No, no, no, no.

CARL NORD: Or whatever, you know, so.

[01:32:16]KAREN BREWSTER: And then did you see seals a lot when you were out in boats?

CARL NORD: No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No?

CARL NORD: Porpoises was the main thing we saw.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah. They were like our companions.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then you'd see eagles, probably.

CARL NORD: Uh, yeah. Once in a while, you'd see eagles. You know, it's funny how little wildlife -- I never saw a bear. Never saw a coyote.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: But we'd hear 'em in winter when they come down to town to raid the garbage cans. We could hear 'em out there, howling, but we never saw one. Never saw a bear. We always thought, if we saw a bear, we'd just make all kinds of noise and sing and bang things and make a lot of noise. 'Cause the bears stayed in the rough part. They didn't come down unless they were looking for food, like in winter time or something like that. They'd stay away from people, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But it's interesting that there were coyotes.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh. And uh --

CARL NORD: No wolves, as far as I know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And deer?

CARL NORD: Never saw a deer. Ok, walking up to Dewey Lake one day, we saw a bunny. The only bunny I ever saw was out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, really.

CARL NORD: I'm sure I saw squirrels. Of course, you saw a lot of birds.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause we had birds in our yard. But it's amazing. I look and "Wow, I hardly saw any wildlife at all the whole time I was up there." Never saw an elk or a moose or a bear or -

[01:33:27]KAREN BREWSTER: Did you spend much time out hiking around in the woods?

CARL NORD: Huh-uh. Just to go to the lake.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. You didn't go out the Chilkoot?

CARL NORD: Or to walk over to Smugglers Cove. Or to Dyea. (Ingrid Nord with Baby Carl_Beach.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Just along the roads, though.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I was going to say, did you go out to Dyea?

CARL NORD: Yeah, 'cause friends of ours had a cabin out there, and I spent a weekend with 'em at their cabin out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Who was that?

CARL NORD: Pattersons. (Wesley and Vivian Patterson)

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. The Patterson cabin.

CARL NORD: Yeah. He was a communist and was always trying to convert people into communism.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, really?

CARL NORD: A friendly communist. I mean, not like --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- you know. Because the commune idea isn't that bad. It's just the way that they handle the commune thing that --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- makes it bad, you know. And his wife was part Indian, and they had a son, Collins, and a daughter, Bondie, and I luckily got a hold of both of them while I was doing the historical thing. He's passed away. He was a truck driver down here. But he -- they had the house right across the yard from us, and they had a huge Doberman Pinscher, and, boy, you didn't go into that yard unless you were accompanied by somebody.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[01:34:29]CARL NORD: But the younger son was into war and all that. He had that whole yard into, like, World War I.

KAREN BREWSTER: Mm.

CARL NORD: You know. You know, what do you call those things?

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the trenches?

CARL NORD: Yeah, trenches, there. Like, trenches. But we never played in his yard.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: I mean, if we played together, we played in my yard or out on the street and played marbles and stuff like that, you know. But he had that whole thing. And they never had any flowers or anything like that or any gardens or anything, so it didn't matter if they had trenches everywhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what did Mr. Patterson do?

CARL NORD: He worked -- I think he worked down at the docks, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: He was a really nice fellow. But he always thought the communist way was the best way, and he was always get people and get them aside and give 'em the spiel and all that, you know, so. That's what he was known for, but nobody bothered him because he was such a nice person, and there's nothing wrong with that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Anyway, wanted to use his idea, ok. You know, that was before we knew about Russians and all that kind of stuff.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:35:26]But so, yeah. So you played marbles as a kid? (Carl Nord_1950.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah, marbles. The most famous marble game was "Follow the Leader." You shoot your marble out there. The other guy shoots his marble out there. Then, if he's close enough, you try to shoot and hit his marble. Otherwise, you keep going. We would play all the way from my house all the way downtown.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: Following each other with the marbles. And the other was, of course, make the circle and shoot them out of the circle.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I've always thought the -- the shoot 'em out of the circle.

CARL NORD: Yeah, that's the most popular and most known version of doing that, you know. And so, you never wanted to use your best marble and get 'em stuck in there and lose it.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the -- the circle ones, were you playing it in the street or in your yard?

CARL NORD: Yeah. No, in the street. We'd just find a place where there was just nice -- some nice dirt, you know, and make a circle. I have one picture of three of us playing out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.

CARL NORD: Just before we came down here.

[01:36:16]KAREN BREWSTER: So the streets were not paved?

CARL NORD: No. They went around in the summer with an oil truck and put oil over the whole thing to keep the dust down, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yuch! And then did you guy have bicycles?

CARL NORD: I never learned to bicycle ride. Every time I tried to get on it, I'd fall over before I could get it going. So I did the dumbest thing possible. We went up to the railroad yard and got up on a railroad platform right next to a railroad car. And the idea was to coast down the hill while you're getting on, so by the time you get on, you're still moving, and you can get your

pedals going. I fell between the platform and the car upside down on my head with the bicycle on top of me without breaking my neck.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: Without getting any wounds of any kind.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's amazing.

CARL NORD: So I never did that again.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But nobody ever taught you how to ride a bike, huh?

CARL NORD: Well, there's not much to teach.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you know, Dad holding onto the back to keep you balanced?

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. Well, I never had a bike, see, so yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: So I was riding other people's bicycle or trying to learn. I always ended up on the ground. I could never get a balloo -- a kite in the air. Everybody else would run around, and their kites are up there, and mine is dragging on the ground like Charlie Brown.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Except I don't have a tree that eats my kite. I don't even get it into a tree.

KAREN BREWSTER: So that was another thing kids did, is they'd fly kites?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[01:37:36]KAREN BREWSTER: Uh. And then in the winter, you said ice skating?

CARL NORD: Um, yeah, some ice skating. Um, they never had races like they did in my book.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: But I talked to a number of people that said, "Oh yeah. I skated to school." There was certain years when the street would be pretty flat and really icy, and you could actually skate to school. So it was a possibility. I just went a step farther and actually made some races.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And it was really good for a whole week.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So they could do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: But so, they would skate just on the street?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And you said --

CARL NORD: Well, there were ponds that froze over.

KAREN BREWSTER: In town?

CARL NORD: But some people would fill part of their yard with water so that it would freeze over, but my favorite thing was belly-flopping on the sled and going oh, like, two or three blocks, if you get -- 'cause there're hardly any cars in the winter on the streets, see, so you didn't have to worry about getting run over or anything like that. And there was a pond on the lot across the street from our house where you could do a little belly flop all the way through the grass growing up through the ice, you know, and all the way up to that corner. And then you belly-flop all the way back over to here again. And that was my favorite part of the sled.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. [01:38:44]And you said also, if you had the wind at your back, you probably --

CARL NORD: Yeah, blow you --

KAREN BREWSTER: Was probably good sledding.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Could you hold open your jacket like a sail?

CARL NORD: Yeah. That's what they did sometimes. Let the wind catch and kinda scoot down the road there, you know. You're kinda moving your feet like you have skates on. You're doing it in your boots or your shoes or whatever you're wearing that day, you know, so.

[01:39:11]KAREN BREWSTER: And what about cross country skiing. Did people do that?

CARL NORD: No. No place to ski there 'cause everything was straight up and down. And down below, it's all ice, so you don't want to ski on ice, so -- I got a pair of skis when we came down here. I think my grandmother gave 'em to me. So I lived the other side of the island, and we had a hill on our hill -- on our property, a little bit of a hill. Down past the vegetable garden, down to the lawn. And so, I tried to do that with my poles. So anyway, my dad fastened 'em onto a sled so I could sled down with the skis. Course, I hit a bump and cracked off both top of the skis.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: And that was the end of that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it sounds like, yeah, you liked to go downhill fast.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um.

[01:39:58]CARL NORD: So oh, well, of course, in the winter time, we had a lot of indoor things. One of the favorite things to do was, two kids would get in the bedroom and pull all the blinds down and have it totally dark in there, and they'd rig up a story with all our stuffed animals and our porky pigs and all that kind of stuff. And then we'd invite the other kids who were sitting out in the other room reading comic books until we had a story all figured out, and then they'd come in and sit in the dark with flashlights. And they'd show the flashlight everywhere our story would go. And so, we had three or four flashlights going on and showing what our little animals were doing, having some kind of a story. I can't remember what the stories were about, but that -- that was fun. So we'd get about six kids to do that, you know. We'd have two in there, working the things and four people with the flashlight. Then they'd trade off.

KAREN BREWSTER: Fun. You guys were very creative.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[01:40:45]KAREN BREWSTER: And uh, you played board games and --

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Um, see, when did we start playing pinochle? I think that was when we came down here 'cause my grandmother was a cutthroat pinochle player.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: And so, pinochle and canasta were down here. Up there, we got the first Clue game ever put out.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And we played Monopoly, and we played checkers and dominoes, and games where you shake the dice and move your little people around the board, like Uncle Wiggly game.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: Horse race game, where your horses are going around the track, and you shake the dice and move 'em ahead so far. And so, a lot of those kinds of games, board games of all kinds.

KAREN BREWSTER: Chess?

CARL NORD: Rummy and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you ever play chess?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No? But Rummy and --

CARL NORD: All the adults played cribbage.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Probably a bunch of them played, uh, what's the most famous card game of all?

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh, bridge.

CARL NORD: Yeah, bridge, there you go. But the people my parents were with always played cribbage, so I still got a cribbage board where you move your little --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Stick -- uh, things around to keep score and all that. And uh --

[01:41:58]KAREN BREWSTER: And was there Boy Scouting?

CARL NORD: Yeah. I was in Cub Scouts, and I went to the first Boy Scout meeting, um, about a month before we came down here. I just went to the meeting 'cause everybody else in our class went to the meeting. So the two of us went, too, even though we weren't going to be there, just to see what the other guys were going to do. But yeah, we were Cub Scouts. That was fun, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What'd you do in Cub Scouts?

CARL NORD: Um, we made carvings, and, you know, you did things to win points, merits and things like that. And I still got my Cub Scout uniform with the scarf. I have everything except the little bolo whatever --

KAREN BREWSTER: Scarf tie --

CARL NORD: With the scarf. So I have the cap, the pants, the shirt, and the -- the cap.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And so, I was gonna see if the museum wanted that because it has the Skagway insignia on it. Or if they don't, I'll just keep it down here in my museum down here or something. I'm hoping to give this whole thing to the land trust.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nice.

CARL NORD: And that hopefully the historical society can keep the house with all the historical stuff in it and have tours. You can't just let people walk through and look at it. (Carl Nord House.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: You'd have to have guided tours for people that wanted to learn about the twentieth century. 'Cause I have upstairs, each room is a different decade. (Carl Nord Museum1.jpg)



(Carl Nord Museum2.jpg)



(Carl Nord Museum3.jpg)



(Carl Nord Museum4.jpg)



(Carl Nord Museum5.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: That's right.
CARL NORD: And all that kind of stuff, so.

[01:43:11]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so how old were you when you joined the Cub Scouts?

CARL NORD: Probably ten. Ten to twelve, probably. I think I was in that for two years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Two years.

CARL NORD: Yeah. My dad was a scout master for a little while. You know, the fathers would take turns being scout masters. We'd carve polar bears out of bars of soap and make things out of wood and stuff like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you go on camping trips?

CARL NORD: No, I don't remember going on camping trips. I know when you got into Boy Scouts, you did. But we didn't do that. But we'd have meetings down at the little rec room behind the Presbyterian church. That's where we met. And do things down there and have meetings there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember how many kids were in it?

CARL NORD: Oh, well. Probably ten to fifteen.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Something like that, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, 'cause you said the population of Skagway was, what, around a thousand people?

CARL NORD: Yeah, eight hundred is what we always said.

[01:44:05]KAREN BREWSTER: And then how many kids in the school?

CARL NORD: Ok, there was roughly an average of ten kids per class in school, so there were, like, 120 kids in the school, counting the high school up above in the second floor.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: My class had thirteen. The class behind me had six. The class ahead of me had about twelve, I think. The lower classes would have a little more than the upper classes. One year there was one high school senior.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: So there was no annual that year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: She got married before the end of school, so there was no cele --

KAREN BREWSTER: No graduation?

CARL NORD: No graduation ceremony.

KAREN BREWSTER: What year was that?

CARL NORD: Uh, 1948, probably. She married an army guy that she fell in love with during the war. And they kept going together and had a long life together, so that was really nice. So she -- she stopped, like, two months before graduation. I said, "You should've gone to graduation!"

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: At least got a diploma.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Maybe they gave her an honorary diploma 'cause she's probably pretty smart. We didn't know about that, so.

[01:45:07]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that does bring up the effect of the army on Skagway. That did that happen a lot? Was there a lot of marriage?

CARL NORD: No. I would say not many. Um, I think several of the girls did marry guys, and for most cases, it was a good marriage, too, so. They would come back. After they got out of the army, they would come back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: And some of them would take the girl and then they'd go to the states. And some of them actually stayed. A couple of them --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's what I was wondering.

CARL NORD: -- stayed in Skagway. A couple of them stayed in Skagway. And uh, started lives there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember who that would've been?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Um, which one did I think of now? Um, yeah, Gloria Roehr, ok. Yeah, Gloria Roehr. Yeah, that's right. R-O-E-H-R. You'll find 'em in the -- in the biographies.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: So it'll come with the correct spellings and everything will be in there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Yeah. And who's -- there was another one, too, that stayed for a while. Yeah, I can remember where they rented for a while. It was a long house. It's called a shotgun house, which means you could shoot a shotgun at one end of the house, and it'd go through the house and come out the other door. And I thought it was Gloria Roehr and her husband, and um, so I mentioned that in a letter, 'cause she lived in Paulsbro for quite a few years. I think she's passed away now, and there wasn't anything in our paper about it, so I don't know. But anyway, I asked her about that, and she said, no, she -- they didn't do that. So I'm thinking of somebody else there, so.

[01:46:38]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, I was thinking what other, um -- Do you remember any of the names of your scout leaders besides your dad?

CARL NORD: No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. Ok. And I assume probably most of the boys in town were in it?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah, most of them went for a little while anyway. Yeah. It was just a kind of a general thing you did 'cause there was so few anyway, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: You only had one kid in the class, well, you wouldn't have much of a troop, so, you know, like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Uh, later on, I have pictures that some of the kids sent me of a whole bunch of the scouts in the Fourth of July parade. I have pictures of 'em. They were the kids that were in the grades below me that I remembered, so -- So, there are like about twenty of them in that group there, all dressed up with the flags and everything, so.

[01:47:24]KAREN BREWSTER: So talk about that Fourth of July parade. That was a big deal in town?

CARL NORD: That -- it's been voted the best Fourth of July parade in Alaska for a number of years, so. And it was great. The kids would decorate their bicycles.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And do that, or they'd get a wagon and make some kind of a display on top of a wagon, like having a pet inside of a cage or something like that. And there would be prizes for that. They'd have the slow bicycle race. The last person to cross the line without falling off was the winner. So you had to ride your bicycle slower than anybody else to get from here to there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: Yeah. And, of course, the pie-eating contest. I kinda wish I had've joined that one. I don't know. I was kinda bashful in those days. But it was -- I didn't want to race in races. I didn't want to --

KAREN BREWSTER: I can't imagine. You were shy?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[01:48:22]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so why was the Fourth of July such a big event?

CARL NORD: Uh, because it was always had to do with the gold rush. All the men had to grow beards, or you'd go to the kangaroo court, get fined. So I have a lot of pictures, you know, of my dad in really old-fashioned, turn-of-the-century outfits, you know, and all that. And he always was great at growing a beard, and that was fine with him and all that, so. (Fred Nord_4th July_1938.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: So people dressed up? (Fred and Ingrid Nord_Days of '98 Costume_1938.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah, so that's why -- and, of course, you had the shooting of Soapy Smith and re-creation of all those things. They were all tied in with the Fourth of July, see. Where other towns just had a Fourth of July without all that gold rush stuff thrown in. See, and that's probably what made it so good. And then, of course, the parade was really good because it was almost all walking and bicycles. There were a few old-fashioned cars. So when I saw it in '91, it was almost all cars.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah. So it was quite different than when we --

KAREN BREWSTER: But so did they have floats? You said there was the time --

CARL NORD: Yeah, floats.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- that your mom played --

CARL NORD: Yeah, they were in the back of a truck, playing their accordions, and it was all decorated. So that'd be -- a vehicle would be in there if they were doing something that had to do with the people that were in it, you know, not just to show off. Well, in '91 they were running the fire truck through to show what the fire truck looked like.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But I would think in your time, that, 'as you say, an old car or, like, one of Martin Itjen's old --

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um.

CARL NORD: Well, probably not that old. A lot of -- course, when I was there, it was in the '40's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So a lot of people had '30's cars, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right.

CARL NORD: And things about like that, you know, so.

[01:49:57]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember some of the other floats, besides the one with your mom?

CARL NORD: No, I don't -- We didn't take very many pictures. And when I did take pictures of that one Fourth of July, I took 'em all of the accordion players, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Like that, so. And that's what I say, my mom was really good at taking family photos and all that. We have lots of those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: But there's all kinds of other things going on in town we never took photos of.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And I said, gee, you know. I wish I'd have had my box camera a little longer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Or something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Now, was there a picnic for Fourth of July, or it was just a parade?

CARL NORD: You just had your own picnic if you had a picnic. There was usually a softball game, though. Usually adults.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: During the summer, the old men and the little boys like me would be on one team, and the, you know, junior high and high school boys would be on the other team. We wouldn't keep score, anything like that, and we wouldn't try to slug the ball. I mean, you'd try to do it so the kids could have a lot of fun. 'Cause I can remember playing the infield with a piece of leather with no pocket, five fingers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, as your glove?

CARL NORD: You just knocked the ball down with it and then pick it up. You didn't catch the ball in it. And that's the -- one of the fathers gave me, that was my first glove.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And -- So I mean, we had fun, you know. [01:51:05]And that's -- I became a baseball fan in probably 1949, 'cause I remember one of my favorite players on the Cleveland Indians in 1950 was playing for the Boston Red Sox. And I said, "I remember when he was a Cleveland Indian." Because we had newsreels and sports magazines. So I could get some of the sports magazines from the -- my dad didn't have that, but Mr. Selmer had it and other people. And I'd get some of those and cut out and made my first baseball scrap book for Cub Scouts, like that. (Nord Family_Sports Magazine.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: So I became a baseball fan without ever seeing a baseball game being played until 1952 when I came down here, and I actually saw a World Series game. After working at my neighbor's on a Saturday morning, he said, "Would you like to stay and watch the game?" I was going to go home and listen to it on the radio. 'Cause we didn't get television until I was in high school, see, so. Oh, yeah. That was the first time I actually saw real baseball players playing baseball, although by then, I was totally into baseball.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: I was collecting, making scrapbooks and all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well, how did you get so into baseball?

CARL NORD: Just from the two -- the newsreels and reading the magazines, and playing on the airport field there, just having fun.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Course, we'd play "Hit the Bat," where one guy bats the ball, and whoever fields it throws it in. And if they hit the bat, they get to be the next batter.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Or if they hit the bat and it bounces over, and the guy that hit it catches it, he gets to stay the batter. We also played "500," where you hit the ball, and if you catch a fly, it's worth a hundred points. One bounce is worth seventy-five points, two bounces fifty points, and a groundball, twenty-five points. And whoever gets to 500 first is the new batter. So we used to do that a lot, where just a few of us would get together and do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: And where would you do that?

CARL NORD: In the street or at school field.

KAREN BREWSTER: The school had a field?

CARL NORD: The school field, big field there. It was not what you call a sports field. It was just a wild field.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. They didn't maintain it as a ballfield.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Nothing was marked out on or anything like that. They played football, there were no lines or anything like that, you know.

[01:53:08]KAREN BREWSTER: So where was the school?

CARL NORD: Same place.

KAREN BREWSTER: Same place as it is now, just a different building?

CARL NORD: No, wait now. No. The school from the gold rush days was torn down and rebuilt in what I called the Square Igloo, a cement building which I have pictures of, in the same place. But the new school now was more over closer to the river. And a whole new place.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So where was the school you went to?

CARL NORD: Um, so it would've have been at, um, let's see. We were on 10th, so you'd go up Main Street two blocks, and then you'd cut over about two blocks. So it was like on -- well, the field was probably on one street, and the school building was on another because the school owned a big chunk of land.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So we could have -- run around and play at recess and stuff like that. So it's like between 11th and 12th between Main and State, somewhere in there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [01:54:09]Um, so you weren't officially -- there wasn't an official school baseball team?

CARL NORD: Hm-mm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you were too young anyway.

CARL NORD: The only official team the school had was basketball, and they played the tavern team, the dock team, and then they'd go to Juneau during the tournament of Alaska teams, and that's the only time they ever played any boys.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: They played men.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: All the rest of the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did you play on the basketball team?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No?

CARL NORD: If, um, so if you read "Snowstorm," that basketball game.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: I made that the center point. I had the whole things begin with a kid looking for the basketball game, having this dream where he's all tangled up in his bedclothes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And pictures himself in the game. That was to make sure -- the game was the most important thing in all this, that he was trying to get through to the game.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And then he actually plays the game, and they actually win it. And when they have the skating races, he doesn't win.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: He falls down, and a girl in the next class wins.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: The bully doesn't win, either.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: See, I can't have my hero win everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, no.

CARL NORD: But in this one, his team does --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: -- beat the sixth graders in that. But that was based on one game we played when I was in the sixth grade just before we left down here. I don't remember the game at all. I just remembered out there shooting baskets. I don't think I even hit the rim and anything. I couldn't dribble. I mean, I was used to shooting at a barrel hoop at home.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Or -- or that stand out in the yard where you just stand there throwing the ball up with no net probably.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Just a rim and all that. And I remember the kid sitting on the stage, watching. And I don't remember the actual game. The idea was that the losing team gets paddled. Course, that was just a thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, right.

CARL NORD: You know. And the other thing was, every kid has to take a shower when they're through. Guess who's the only kid was that took a shower?

KAREN BREWSTER: You.

CARL NORD: Everybody else went home, and I was in there, taking a shower by myself.

[01:56:09]KAREN BREWSTER: And now, what about football? Did kids play football?

CARL NORD: No. Yeah, we played, you know, flag football or something, but there was no football team. There weren't -- You'd have to have every kid in high school be on the team.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But as kids, so you guys would play football or it was more base -
-

CARL NORD: Yeah, we played a little football. Um, but baseball was the one that we did the most because summer time was when we were looking for things to do, and baseball was a summer sport, so uh, that's the way we played that. Work up -- work up, you know. So every time there's an out, everybody moves up one position. And we play "Hit the Bat" thing, where you throw the ball and try to hit the bat when you catch it, or 500, where you just count up the points of -- with every kid. If you miss a fly, you have to subtract a hundred from your score.

[01:56:51]KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh. What about kick the can?

CARL NORD: Oh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or is that a city sport?

CARL NORD: Uh, no. We used to do that where we had a rubber sponge ball, and we'd throw it over the roof of the house. And the person on the other side of the house was supposed to run around the side of the house and catch it and throw the ball and hit you with that ball before you could get around to the other side of the house.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: And uh, I batted one of those once, and it went through the bedroom window.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

CARL NORD: But I told the truth. I broke the window.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you have to pay for fixing it?

CARL NORD: No, no. No. That's when I was, oh -- well, actually, Andy's the same age as I would've been when I did that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That sounds a little like dodgeball, almost.

CARL NORD: We played dodgeball at school. In fact is, I was a little too rough. I hit this fifth grade girl in the head with it, and she ran into the school crying. And I felt bad about it. Forty years later, I talked to her on the phone. "I remember hitting your head with a dodgeball." And she said, "Yes, I remember that." And I said, "I was really sorry that I didn't go in the school and see how you were, or something like that. I went and hid or something like that." I said, "Well, I'm really sorry. I've been sorry my entire life about that."

KAREN BREWSTER: Aw.

CARL NORD: So anyway, we ended with a very friendly thing.

[01:58:11]KAREN BREWSTER: And that was during recess you guys would play that? Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah. During recess, yeah. So, uh, let's see. What did that remind me of? That reminded me of something else. I don't remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Dodgeball.

CARL NORD: Oh, we used to play "Red Rover, Red Rover, Send Somebody on Over."

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: Yeah, we used to play that. Oh, I know. I know. Monkey bars.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: Just before we left Skagway, maybe a year or so, they put the monkey bars out. The playground is a pile of rocks. I mean, you had to tiptoe around it. You don't do anything. But a lot of the kids like that, you know, going all the way across. I'd get about two, then I'd fall off, and I didn't want to do it anymore. When I got in the army, I could do two push-ups.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: When I got out of the army, I could do forty on one breath.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: And that was -- I mean, after you do your basic training, you don't do that anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: But I did it on my own. I did it. And so, when I got out of the army, I started in August. And this is the eighth month. Ok, I'm going to do eight push-ups in one breath. Every month I'm going to add one push-up. And I did that 'til I got to forty. And I actually did forty-four on that last time, and I said, "That's the last time I'm doing that." And I can remember when I got in the army, this guy named John Power. He'd get down there and he could do all these push-ups, like you know, twenty, thirty of them. And anyway, I beat him. I did forty-four. And I had to do it in one breath.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: You take one big breath and you just let it out very slowly, and you do 'em like that. And that was full push-ups, not just like that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So, uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: But by then I was doing gardening and all that and getting a lot of exercise. So I said, "Well, I don't have to have arm strength that much anymore, so."

[01:59:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, well, we talked about Fourth of July and Halloween, what about Christmas?

CARL NORD: Christmas exactly like in the book. I did everything that we did, those kids did, including sneaking out to see the tree early, and not having to get up too early. And the way we did the stockings. There was no fireplace. You had to hang 'em on the bookshelf or wherever. And the way we decorated. Dad put the tree up and put the lights on. And kids put the ornaments on, and Mom put the tinsel on, one piece at a time, like that. And uh, so everything we did in the book there is exactly what our family did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So was Christmas a big deal in town?

CARL NORD: Uh, yeah. Yeah, it was. Because we had the show at the school.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: The whole thing, with all the kids taking part, either singing in the chorus or doing the skits and all that. And that was the -- maybe the biggest social gathering of the year, is people coming to the Christmas show.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Then we had the Eagles Hall, where Santa Claus was delivering presents. And all the kids would go down there and wait for their name to be named. And I found out how that was done. I was at one of the Selmers' houses when Mrs. Selmer was talking on the phone. She was calling all the parents. Will your son or daughter be at the -- what would that son or daughter like? And writing it down. And everybody donated money, and then they went out and bought all these different presents and wrapped them up, according to what the parents said that their kids would like.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

CARL NORD: And up to about sixth grade, or something like that. And then we went down there and all sat down. The parents would sit in the back, and the kids were all sitting around up here. And Santa Claus would come in exactly like I did in my story and read off the names one by one, and all that. And you're waiting for your name to come on, like that. And then you open it and find something. Oh, you really wanted that, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I wonder if they had to order things from Outside?

CARL NORD: Yeah. You had to do that really in advance.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: They were doing this, like in September. Getting the list of who's coming to the Eagles Christmas show, and what would the daughter or son like. Yeah, they were doing it really early 'cause then they had to make the list. Then they had to get -- collect the money.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Then they had to send out to Sears, or wherever they sent down here. And then get 'em back up and get 'em all wrapped for Christmas, you know. Yeah, that took a long time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I say, a big volunteer effort by Mrs. Selmer or whoever else --

CARL NORD: Yeah. So one person probably did the phoning, and another person did the ordering, or something like that. And then uh, some other people got together and did all the wrapping, and so.

[02:02:19]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember if your mom helped with any of it?

CARL NORD: No, I don't remember doing that because we wouldn't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

CARL NORD: 'Cause when we were young, we don't know the presents were not coming from Santa Claus.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause we know that's Santa Claus' helper. We knew that wasn't the real Santa Claus. So I was explaining to the little girl, uh, telling her that, "No, that's not the real Santa Claus, that's Santa Claus' helper." And all that. And every town has a Santa Claus' helper, see. Like that, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: But, as you say, that was only for kids up to, like, sixth grade and -- ?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Well, they'd call the kids, and if the kids weren't going to be there, they're not going to get a present. But if they're going to be there, yeah, they'll get a present.

KAREN BREWSTER: But even a high school kid?

CARL NORD: Well, I don't remember any high school kids doing that 'cause they wouldn't show up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right. [02:02:59]And then your family would go back home for Christmas meal?

CARL NORD: Yeah. So.

KAREN BREWSTER: That -- that -- that program at the Eagles Hall, was that Christmas Eve?

CARL NORD: I was trying to think. Um, it might've been some years, but I don't think that was really necessary. I don't remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or was it Christmas day?

CARL NORD: No. It wasn't Christmas day, no. It was before Christmas.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Yeah. So Christmas Eve would've been the latest, but it might've been, like, on a Saturday night before Christmas again.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: Because we went to school right up until Christmas, took a day off, and then went right back to school.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So a school night on those other nights, so I would say the -- the nearest Saturday was when we did that.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, did they have food and punch and stuff?

CARL NORD: No. No, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, it was just the present thing?

CARL NORD: Just the present thing, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: And we'd sing a few songs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep.

(Phone rings in the background)

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: There's your phone again.

CARL NORD: Well.

KAREN BREWSTER: We'll take a little --

(Break)

[02:03:48]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so Christmas. So then after the gift -- then how would Christmas be celebrated at home with your family? (Ingrid and Carl Nord_Xmas 1939.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah, just the same way. We put the tree up about a week before Christmas. Uh, we'd go up in the sled up to the north of town and find a tree and cut it and bring it back home on the sled. And uh, set it up about a week before. We liked to have it up a while. Some people didn't put it up 'til Christmas Eve when the kids were in bed, and so when they got up, the tree was there, you know. But we didn't -- the kids have to decorate when we were old enough to -- (Carl Nord_Xmas 1940.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Kids decorate it and all that kind of stuff. So one of the big things was to get the Wishbook from Sears Roebuck in about October.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And going through and finding out it was full of toys and all kinds of stuff like that. So uh, I remember, I ordered from my grandmother a set -- a tea set from Sears, and it's up on that top shelf. Now, there's a teapot, a sugar thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: And a cream thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And gave them to my grandmother for Christmas, and now I have that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now you have them. Neat.

CARL NORD: Yeah. So we pick out for the people, too, you know. Course, sometimes we had to tell them what we were getting them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[02:05:02]CARL NORD: But uh, one year, the Christmas shipment with all the things didn't get there in time, so Santa Claus didn't come.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: He came Christmas Eve, but he came back a couple days later again with the stuff that was supposed to go in there. Course, by then, I knew who Santa Claus was, but my sister didn't, so we had to go along with that. "Well, yeah. Santa Claus is going to come back again. He liked us so much, he's going to come back again in a couple of nights."

KAREN BREWSTER: So what was the first one? Was it things from Skagway?

CARL NORD: No, they were just things we were -- little things to put in the stocking that were from Sears, or whatever.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

CARL NORD: 'Cause we didn't exchange presents from anybody out of town except relatives.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: I mean, we didn't --

KAREN BREWSTER: No, but I mean, if the stuff that had been ordered didn't come in, what did you get that was local? The first Santa?

CARL NORD: Well, mostly in the stocking, it was going to be fruit and nuts and candy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

CARL NORD: And when the Christmas ship came up, which was a special ship that came in, you went aboard, and all you did was get a stocking full of nuts and candy and oranges. I mention that in one of my books, that they did that. I didn't have them actually do it. I just said that we did that. They were telling the new kids in town what they were doing for Christmas.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: That's why I had new kids come to town, so they could repeat a bunch of historical stuff to the readers as well as to the new kids that have just come to town, see, so. That's the reason I have new kids come to town.

[02:06:25]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So the Christmas ship came, and you guys went on --

CARL NORD: It was just a small boat, and one year, I remember it was all full of ice, you know, from the waves getting up on it. It was just coated with ice. We went down, and it was nice and warm down there. You just walked through, and they'd hand you a stocking, and you walk off again and take it home.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: So --

KAREN BREWSTER: Who -- who provided that?

CARL NORD: I have no idea who did that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh. And so, but then if packages and things that you'd ordered from Sears didn't arrive in time?

CARL NORD: Oh yeah, they'd get ordered really early.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

CARL NORD: They'd be ordered, like, in November.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh ok.

CARL NORD: And, of course, they had arrived when the kids were at school, so they'd get hidden in nice places, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So I get that the year the Christmas ship didn't come, it came after? You had your regular Christmas --

CARL NORD: Right. Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- and then the ship was later?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Normally, it came before Christmas?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. That was just something that had some extra things they were going to put in the stocking. It had nothing to do with the presents.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Ok.

CARL NORD: Which were taken care of a long time ago.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, I get it.

CARL NORD: And that just happened once. And it was -- just I remember Santa Claus came twice that --

KAREN BREWSTER: I had it reversed.

CARL NORD: Yeah, ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. I get it. [02:07:35]And then, what kind of a meal did you have for Christmas?

CARL NORD: See, right when we got down here, we'd have turkey for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. New Year's was always ham. It was always ham, boiled. Maybe boiled dinner. That was just beef stew with ham instead of beef.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: You know, like that. But I think, um, when we came down here, we used to alternate with the grandmother that was here. She had a cabin on the island, but she lived in the University District in Seattle.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Um, so she would, um -- How did we do that? We would spend Christmas Eve with her, and then come home and spend Christmas Eve out here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Christmas Day out here?

CARL NORD: She never came out here to spend it with us 'cause she was living in Seattle during the winter.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And she'd come out and live in her cabin in the summer. So we'd go in and spend Christmas Eve with her in town, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And in Skagway, did your mom cook a special meal for Christmas?

CARL NORD: I think we had turkey both times. I don't remember anything any different than that. That was kind of a --

KAREN BREWSTER: And Thanksgiving, too, it would've been -- ?

CARL NORD: Yeah. And it was always turkey, so we always could get turkey.

[02:08:44]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Do you have any particular Christmas memory of a particular gift that really was special that you received? (Carl Nord on Tricycle_Xmas 1940.jpg)



(Carl Nord_Xmas 1941.jpg)



CARL NORD: Oh, we got so many things, you know. I mean, it wasn't just one gift.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: It was a whole bunch of things, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, some -- some kids remember when, "Oh, I got my first bike."

CARL NORD: Yeah, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or I got my ice skates or that particular book or something.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Well, I bet ya -- I had a wagon that had wooden slats that you put around.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Um-hm.

CARL NORD: A wooden wagon.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep.

CARL NORD: And that's what I used to deliver the eggs in in the summer. And you could take the slats down and put one knee in that and go chugging off down the street. That's why I never had a bicycle. I had a scooter, a tricycle, and graduated to a wagon, which I really liked 'cause you didn't run it on the sidewalk that much. You ran it out on the street, you know. Uh, that might've been a Christmas present. I don't remember getting it any special time, though.

KAREN BREWSTER: Your Red Flyer sled?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[02:09:50]KAREN BREWSTER: So what was your scooter? I didn't realize they had scooters back then.

CARL NORD: Scooter, you know, is a skateboard with a handle. (Kay Lamoreaux_scooter.jpg)



KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I know what it is, I just didn't know they had them back then.

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Used to go downtown on that. You know, you just put one foot on that and pedal with your other foot. And then once in a while, you could coast a few feet, and then you'd start doing that again, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now, were there paved sidewalks? Or this was all --

CARL NORD: No, wooden sidewalks.

KAREN BREWSTER: It was all on wooden boardwalk sidewalks?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even on the side streets?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because now it's just on Broadway.

CARL NORD: Well, a lot of the side streets didn't have sidewalks at all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Ok.

CARL NORD: So basically, your main drags had side -- had wooden sidewalks. So a lot of the kids would find all kinds of things under the cracks of the sidewalks, coins and things like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. How did you get 'em out?

CARL NORD: I don't know. You just take a stick and get it out to the edge here, or go under there like that, you know. And so, you had to watch out when you're wearing high heels, you know, get your high heel caught in one of those things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: It's kinda dangerous, so. Um, well, one of the other thing that kids used to do, this is older kids, is when a ship came into town, they'd run around and pick flowers and things out of the fields and out of other people's yards and stuff, and run down to the boat and sell them to the tourists. Handfuls of flowers.

KAREN BREWSTER: How much would you get for a handful?

CARL NORD: I don't know. I never did that. I suppose you'd get a nickel or a dime or something like that, which is a lot of money. [02:11:13]Ok, what older kids did, which I might've done if I'd have stayed was be a pin-setter at the bowling alleys.

KAREN BREWSTER: There was a bowling alley?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Both the Eagles Hall and the Elks Hall had bowling alleys. And my parents were Elks, so we went down there. And they were always trying to get me to be a bowler, and I was always afraid that fingers get caught or go straight up and come down and land on my foot, like that. Finally, they got me out there to throw a ball. I threw it straight up in the air, it came down, missed my foot, and said, "That's it." And unfortunately, there was pool tables in the back room, but the balls and the sticks were always locked up. There was never anything there to play with.

KAREN BREWSTER: Aw.

CARL NORD: So I had to sit and watch my parents bowl and bowl, and I got so tired of bowling. But I'd go down and watch the pin-setters and thought, "Maybe I'd do that." You know that was fun, 'cause they had to hop up on the thing. They'd get pshew (sound effect) coming through there. Swing up there and put the things in the right -- push the thing down, you know, and send the ball back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah. 'Cause it was before electronic --

CARL NORD: Automatic.

KAREN BREWSTER: Automatic pin-setters.

CARL NORD: Yeah. See when they get Dad down here, when he came down here, he did the books for um, Bainbridge Motors, which sold cars, sold gas, repaired cars, did the whole thing like that. He worked as one of the accountants in there. But when he got older, he also did this -- the books for the City Hall and the bowling alley.

KAREN BREWSTER: Here in Bainbridge?

CARL NORD: Yeah. So um, by then -- at first there were pin-setters, and I would help him make up the lists of pin-setters and things like that, you know, so they'd get their pay and all that kind of stuff. And then pretty soon, they had automatic pin-setters, so they didn't have the boys doing it anymore, so.

[02:13:01]KAREN BREWSTER: But in Skagway, did they have, like, bowling teams or a bowling league?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, bowling was big. The Eagles team, you know, the Elks team, the store team, the wharf team, the grocery store team, and there was men and women's leagues, both. My mom was a great bowler, too, so. Uh, every week, they'd be down there bowling one night a week. Thursday nights or something like that, they'd be bowling. And tournaments. And

they'd get these -- if they bowled a really good game, they'd get these little wooden pins with the score on it. Darn, I wish I knew where those were 'cause I'd love to have those little bowling pins now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Did they ever go down to, like, Juneau or someplace to compete?

CARL NORD: Uh, I think sometimes they would do that, too, yeah. Usually anything that was like that would go to Juneau, and people would come everywhere that's it's going to go and be in Juneau to do that, yeah.

[02:13:55]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what other things the adults did for socializing?

CARL NORD: Well, cards. Weekend -- as I said, cribbage, and I'm sure there was bridge tournaments and stuff like that. And bowling and fishing and boating and all those things were the big things in town.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you said your family didn't go camping, though?

CARL NORD: No, we didn't go camping.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did people do that?

CARL NORD: We never went out with tents or anything like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did people do that?

CARL NORD: Not much. I don't remember -- you have to walk straight up a mountain and you'd have to find a level place up there, you know, like that. Um.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you could go by boat someplace.

CARL NORD: Yeah, right. There were cabins around the -- like, Lake Dewey had a cabin. And Dyea, cabins were -- you could go over and, you know, stay in one of those cabins that either a friend owned or whatever. Or a town owned. Used to do that, but camping out was not a big thing because of the topography, I suppose, mostly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And because the whole town is, like, rural.

[02:14:58]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And then, did you ever drive out to Dyea?

CARL NORD: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: You always went by --

CARL NORD: I got motion sickness, so the only time I ever drove in a thing was -- maybe the guys sprinkling the streets with water. Sometimes they did it with oil and they also did it with water. It seems like the father of one the kids that did that, and we sat in the front seat and drove about five miles an hour down the street like that, you know. As soon as I came down here, I got bus-sick going to school.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um.

CARL NORD: I'd get seasick up there, if it was rollers, those rollers. If it was choppy waves, it didn't bother me at all, but those rollers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I know.

CARL NORD: Oh, like that. So and came down here, elevators, uh. You know, you could feel that and all that.

[02:15:46]KAREN BREWSTER: But, so did you go out fishing with your dad, halibut fishing out on the boat? (Fred and Carl Nord with halibut_1949.jpg)



CARL NORD: Yeah. We'd go out really early in the morning, like, five o'clock, and everything was like a mill pond, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And the wind wouldn't come up 'til like eleven or twelve, and you could see the waves coming up.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you were ok doing that?

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. And when we went home and it was choppy, that didn't bother me at all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: It's just those rolling. And that's usually while we're still fishing, and we're sitting there, rolling like that.

[02:16:08]KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause I was wondering if you had ever been out -- went -- Going out to Dyea, what was out there in that time period?

CARL NORD: Yeah. There was a few cabins out there. Wasn't much of anything from the gold rush days.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: I mean, that stuff disappeared fast. I don't know where it went, but when I went there in '91 and walked over there, there was a ranger station there and not one thing left over from the --

KAREN BREWSTER: I think there's that false front thing. But when you were a kid, there already was nothing?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: It was already gone.

CARL NORD: We never -- the only time I went over there was when I stayed a weekend with some friends.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

[02:16:44]KAREN BREWSTER: And did people hike the Chilkoot Trail at all, do you remember?

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. People would do that once in a while, but that was no big deal, you know. I mean, you lived there all your life, that's -- people that want to do that are people that come into town and have heard about it and want to do it, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that's what I was wondering is, how much did people in town really --

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- care about it?

CARL NORD: Only time we really got excited about the gold rush is the Fourth of July when everybody went hogwild.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Although, they did have all summer long the shooting of Soapy Smith and all that for the tourists.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Whenever the tourists boat in, they would have shows downtown.

[02:17:16]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that was my other quest -- next question, was what was tourism like?

CARL NORD: Yeah, it was big because I can -- I wrote -- we had pen pals. We pick a school down in the states somewhere. I picked, um, Maplewood, Missouri, because it was next to St. Louis Cardinals baseball and St. Louis Browns baseball. To a sixth grader at the Maplewood Grade School, and such, and that. And, of course, you didn't need any zip code or any address or anything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And I ended up getting eight kids writing to me for a little while there. And they sent me some pictures of St. Louis, the golden arches, and talked baseball a little bit, but that was just about the time when I moved down here, so it didn't last very long. I'm surprised some of my pen pal things didn't last that long, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: But so, when you were a kid, tour ships were coming into Skagway?

CARL NORD: Yeah. So I wrote to them. In fact, I have copies of some of the letters I wrote. Saying, "Yeah. Sea -- Or Bain -- uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: Skagway?

CARL NORD: Skagway is a big tourist town. That's one of the most important things here, and like that. And, of course, all the stories of that kids tell you about how they'd take their bouquets

down and sell them to the tourists when they came in. And there'd be a lot of tourists coming in for the Fourth of July. They'd hear about that and come in and want to experience that, you know. And uh, winter there wasn't much tourism. It was all in the summer, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But, I mean, the reason I ask, you know, now, there's so many cruise ships that come in, and tourism is so important to the Skagway economy.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was wondering how much of that was going on?

CARL NORD: Ok, not that big. I mean, we didn't have a town flooded full of tourists, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: One boat would come in, and then maybe another week, another boat would come in, stuff like that, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then what -- you said there was a show, the Soapy Smith --

CARL NORD: Yeah, and the gambling place. You could do the -- you know, get the fake money and gamble, just like you're back in those days. So I have a lot of pictures of the townspeople all dressed up like gold rush people, and the tourists watching the shows and gambling and doing all that.

[02:19:22]KAREN BREWSTER: So they still were focusing on the gold rush history for the tourists?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah. That was the big thing. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And, at that point, the railroad was still a freight railroad?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Well, they had passenger cars, too, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: It was taking people up to Whitehorse all the time, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, 'cause the highway wasn't in. There was no road to Whitehorse, was there?

CARL NORD: No. No. There wasn't that many that didn't think that was possible, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: Then all of a sudden it became possible.

KAREN BREWSTER: It didn't seem possible?

CARL NORD: Yeah, I mean nobody thought of ever making a road. You know, they've been trying to get roads to Juneau or something like that, and nothing has ever come of any of that, you know, so.

[02:20:03]KAREN BREWSTER: I was wondering, you had said you liked reading so much. Was there a library?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like a city library?

CARL NORD: The people in the women's club were the librarians. And my mom belonged to the women's club, so that's why the mother in my thing says, "Oh, today's my day to be the librarian." And she's going to take the little daughter down even though it's blowing out and everything like that. And uh, so one of the famous families was the Sparks family, 'cause Vic Sparks was the, uh, artist of town, and he did all kinds of art things, very famous person. And his wife was a little tiny lady, Abby Sparks, and so whenever we went to the library, we always were very quiet because she was so nice, and we wanted to be very quiet for her. Of course, sometimes my mom was the librarian, and all the women in the women's club would take turns

being the librarian. And it was open certain days of the week, 'cause you could go in and get a whole bunch of books and you didn't have to go back there for another two weeks.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: So it wasn't like, open every day, eight hours a day or type things. There were certain days it was open.

KAREN BREWSTER: And was it at the school?

CARL NORD: No. It was on -- right next to the grocery store, right next to the power company store, which I drew on a map somewhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hmm.

CARL NORD: Let's see, what -- that would be about on -- probably be about on 5th Avenue, the side street. Yeah. One of the grocery stores -- the ones that the kids go to the grocery is right next to the library. And the women's club was upstairs.

KAREN BREWSTER: In the library?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Bottom floor was the library. And upstairs was the women's club.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: So they ran the whole thing, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh. And which store -- what was the name of the store that was --?

CARL NORD: It was called the F&F Store, which is what it's called in my book. It's Feero and something. F&J was the Feero and Johnson's store. It kinda changed hands once in a while. So it'd have initials, like that, of the last names of whoever was running. The other store was the Riewe Store, which is right next to the Coliseum Theater, which is still there, but not a theater anymore. That whole building thing is still there, but it's trade stores and stuff now.

[02:22:11]KAREN BREWSTER: So there was a movie theatre?

CARL NORD: Yeah, two movie theatres. The Broadway, which was next to the Igloo. Half of the Igloo was an ice cream parlor, and the other -- other door that went in right next to it was the bar. And right -- that was called the Broadway Theatre. The other one -- that wasn't running the whole time we were there. And they had a fire, just like they did in my book.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: They had a fire, which didn't do any damage, but everybody had to leave. The Colosseum Theatre was the big one that was always there, and that's the one that was next to the Riewe's. Both of those were on Broadway Street, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And almost across the street from each other. Newer -- times are when they had movies going at both theatres at the same time, so that was the big thing. Just like in my book, the kids would go the Friday nights and see Laurel and Hardy and Jungle Jim and serials and stuff like that. And Saturday night was family night, and all the Indian kids at the mission had the front -- got the front of the theatre. That was segregation, see.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: We didn't know it was segregation. We thought, they're the lucky ones. They get to sit down in front, and we have to sit back up here. But I found out later that was some kind of segregation. But when they came, the whole school would come down. I mean, it wasn't just a few of them, you know. There was -- fifty of them would come down, so that made sense.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Give 'em the first six rows of the theatre or whatever, and have 'em all sit together and everything. Most parents wanted to sit back in the loges (separate box seating) or the back part anyway, so. That always worked out good, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So what kind of movies did they show?

CARL NORD: All the popular movies, except they're usually about two years old by the time they got up there. And they showed a lot of old ones from the early '40's. You know, they'd get copies of older movies and bring them up, and we had no idea that they were old movies. It didn't matter anyway, you know, so.

[02:24:08]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, what was I just going to ask. So other socializing things that the adults did?

CARL NORD: Yeah. Bowling and card playing and um, dances. Course, there was a lot of dances during the gold rush celebration. People would dance -- get in their old costumes and come down and dance. I have some pictures of some of them. And all the school things. There was always things going on at the school, and that was big. Everybody came, whether they had kids in school or not, would go to the school things. My dad would take me to the basketball games, where the high school guys played the adult teams from the city.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: And that's how I knew how you played basketball. And so I could be out shooting somewhere in my shed or somewhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Pretending like I was one of those guys.

[02:24:59]KAREN BREWSTER: Did anybody play hockey in the winter?

CARL NORD: Yeah. I don't remember it personally, but earlier, I have pictures of the hockey team. There was actually a hockey team in Skagway that went and played some of the other towns. And there were places where they could freeze it out and make a hockey rink. It wasn't indoors. It was all outdoors.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Uh, so that was big. And baseball was big, and basketball was big. There was hardly any football.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, it sounds like Skagway was a very active and social community.

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: People were --

CARL NORD: It was never any time you didn't always have something to do. I mean, there was always something to do. So if you were a kid, you'd go out and make up your own game if you wanted to, you know. (Nords With Snowman.jpg)



Carl Nord and his younger sister, Mimi, in their yard in Skagway with a snowman and their Cocker Spaniel Rusty. Woman may be their grandmother?

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you never felt like, "Oh, I'm bored."

CARL NORD: No. Didn't know what that meant.

[02:25:51]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, what happened in -- what was in terms of law enforcement? You mentioned a sheriff.

CARL NORD: Oh, ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was law --

CARL NORD: Very little. There was occasional drunkenness. There might be a theft or something once in a while, but now that they have a police blotter in the newspaper of all the crimes going on, uh -- but everybody knew everybody else, so you didn't do anything like that.

You didn't have to do anything like that, so. The town marshal usually had about four or five other jobs, too, you know. And uh, what did the -- oh, I know, yeah. When some kid did some juvenile delinquent type thing --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: -- the sheriff would take him out on his boat. And they'd run around and talk about this, and says, "Now, if you're gonna want to ride in this boat again, straighten up." That's all there was to it. Hardly anybody was ever in jail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: Maybe somebody sleeping off a drunk or something like that, you know, so, uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember who some of those marshals were?

CARL NORD: Well, the Rapuzzis was -- Rapuzzi was a marshal. See, there really wasn't much for the marshal to do, so it wasn't like a full time --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: -- job. It was an elective job. Kind of like a selective job and stuff like that, so. Had to go putting the light bulbs back in the sockets, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So it was pretty much -- it was a pretty safe place?

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: There wasn't a lot going on?

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah. It was a really safe place. Yeah. Everybody looked out for everybody else. Everybody helped everybody else, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: If somebody was in need of something, there were people there to make sure they didn't need something. You know. It was just a very close-knit community.

[02:27:41]KAREN BREWSTER: And did people talk about, with the military being there, if that changed it during this time?

CARL NORD: Uh, I think everyone pretty much went around doing their normal thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the military didn't cause trouble with the --

CARL NORD: No. No. You weren't allowed to leave town, and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that's interesting that you weren't allowed to leave town.

CARL NORD: Yeah. Yeah. I don't think anybody was going to sabotage the town or anything like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you said that it was a target. Did you feel -- well, you might not remember, but do you think people felt like it was --

CARL NORD: Well, they used to have blackouts. And they continued it, after the war was over.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: I remember going around with my dad, making sure everybody had their dra -- blinds pulled and no lights showed through.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

CARL NORD: I said, "Holy cow. I remember the war." Then I found out, no. They kept doing that even a couple years after the war, and then finally it went away. And I remembered it, like, when I was in the second grade, you know, when the soldiers were gone and everything like that. So, of course, I didn't -- I knew about the war because we used to draw artwork of planes -- Japanese planes and American planes shooting "to-do" (sound effect) little things at each other. That was after the war. That wasn't during the war.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: So we've heard about the war, mostly from seeing war movies at the theater. I remember seeing war movies, where the Japanese were up in the trees sniping people.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: I can remember movies like that. And uh, so uh, that's just something you heard about, and so you did artwork doing that and stuff like that.

[02:29:04]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But you don't remember the military being in Skagway?

CARL NORD: Huh-uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were too young?

CARL NORD: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But yeah, I figured you --

CARL NORD: Yeah, I was a pre-schooler, see. I started school just the time the army pulled out. That's when I started school, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Yeah, well, I thought you might -- hearing your parents talk about it or other stories from people.

CARL NORD: No, not much, except that my mom always told the one about -- or the guards said they couldn't cross the bridge, and we crossed the bridge anyway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

CARL NORD: And a few things like that. My mom was a very strong-willed person. When she set out to do something, she did it.

[02:29:37]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, well, you mentioned the bars and drunkenness. Was there a lot of drinking?

CARL NORD: Oh, I suppose a lot of drinking, but there was very little drunkenness.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

CARL NORD: Yeah, you didn't see people wandering around the street drunk or anything like that. And, of course, hardly anybody had cars, so there were no traffic accidents.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

CARL NORD: And that, and stuff like that. So it was mostly a personal thing, you know, like that. So once in a while, somebody'd get put in jail overnight until they'd sleep it off, or something.

KAREN BREWSTER: Were there a lot of bars open?

CARL NORD: Oh, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: They still -- Yeah.

CARL NORD: Yeah, there must've been five bars or anything like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I know, you were a little too young to participate in that. You didn't spend much time in the bars as a young person, did you?

CARL NORD: No. I've been a total non-drinker my entire life.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, um, shall we take a little bit of a break here?

CARL NORD: Yeah, ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you want to take a break?

CARL NORD: Do you want to look at some of that? Do you want something to eat?

KAREN BREWSTER: Look at something. Well, let's just take a -- we'll take a little break here.

CARL NORD: Ok.