

RECORDED INTERVIEW OF SCOTT HOME

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER

IN DYEA, ALASKA

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TRANSCRIBED BY RUTH SENSENIG

[00:00:00]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. This is Karen Brewster, and today is August 7, 2019, and I'm here interviewing Scott Home. Um, and we are currently sitting in a cabin at the Chilkoot Outpost in Dyea, Alaska. And this is for the Klondike Gold Rush Histor -- uh, National Historical Park Oral History Project. Thank you, Scott, for getting up this morning and coming out here to see me. I appreciate it. It's good you don't live very far away, out here in Dyea. Um.

SCOTT HOME: Everything is close in Dyea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and it's thanks to Doug Sanvik that --

SCOTT HOME: Absolutely.

KAREN BREWSTER: I met out hiking on the trail who told me about you.

SCOTT HOME: He came around to the house and told me. Otherwise, we would never have known it at all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, so that's great. [00:00:47]So before we kinda get into the Chilkoot Trail part, um, I kinda like to know a little bit about your background. You mentioned you're eighty, or just about eighty.

SCOTT HOME: Just about. Six more months, I'll turn eighty.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: We'll have the first -- I always said when I had my seventieth birthday, that's the last one I'd ever celebrate, 'cause that's all the Bible gives you, is six -- is threescore and ten. But my dad always said, "Your eightieth is where you stop bitching about 'em and start boasting about 'em." So I've decided that's what I'm going to do next winter.

KAREN BREWSTER: Good. Alright. So where were you born, and where'd you grow up?

SCOTT HOME: I was born in Windsor, Missouri. I grew up mostly in Missouri, and we spent lots of time in Colorado when I was a little kid. Soon as I was out of high school, I moved to Colorado. And I lived there and started college. And after a while I went to Minnesota, because I got a scholarship there and got my bachelor's. [00:01:39]And while I was at Minnesota, I got my first job in Alaska at McKinley Park in '64. So that determined me that this is pretty much where I was going to come, but then I got teaching jobs in Central America and the Caribbean for five years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: So that was pretty much fun.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: And the only reason I gave that up was they offered me an all-winter research job in Glacier Bay instead of an all-winter confrontation with teenagers, and that sounded so good that I went with that. And then, I got another offer, and then I realized I needed to go back to school to learn what I needed to learn as a wildlife biologist. And once I was in school in Fairbanks, I just got all kinds of jobs, all over the state.

[00:02:17]KAREN BREWSTER: So your college degree from --

SCOTT HOME: Zoology.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is zoology? And that's from --

SCOTT HOME: Bachelor's is from Minnesota, and the master's is from Alaska.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, your master's is in wildlife biology?

SCOTT HOME: No, zoology. They're both in zoology, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: When I was coming up for graduation, they asked me what I wanted it in, zoology, biology, or wildlife management. So that's how loose it is up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, at the time.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what year was that?

SCOTT HOME: 1981.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

SCOTT HOME: That I graduated.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: 1964 for Minnesota.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And 1981.

[00:02:54]KAREN BREWSTER: And so, a little bit back to your growing up, what did your parents do?

SCOTT HOME: My dad was a power lineman and a ragtime musician. My mother was a full-time mother and housewife until the kids were finally out of school, and then she became a librarian, the town librarian.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. And how many in your family?

SCOTT HOME: Just two of us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Just two kids?

SCOTT HOME: Myself and my blood sister. We've got an adopted sister we picked up later, but -- we count her, but she's not any blood or anything like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Now are you the oldest?

SCOTT HOME: Yep.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh. [00:03:27]And so, what was, uh, life like growing up?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, it was a great life. I lived out on -- right at the edge of town. I lived in farm country. We lived in wide open country, next to animals and yeah, it was -- all my friends were hunting and fishing friends and buddies. And ran around on bikes and horseback and all that, and it was my idea of an idyllic life, ideal life.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I was wondering if you got, sort of, your nature bug --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- from your parents or things you did as a kid?

SCOTT HOME: Well, actually, I was nicknamed the bug nut when I was in school because I was always into a new bug or plant or all that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Great. So that's how you --

SCOTT HOME: So, yeah. That's -- when I got to college, there wasn't any orientation at all of any real -- it's like you want to be a lawyer, you want to be a doctor, so my buddy Joe and I had to discuss it all the way through high school as to how people like us were -- and right from the beginning, I said if I go in there, I'd take it in biology and zoology. "Oh, I don't know if there's enough jobs," he says. I'm going to have to go into forestry. He kept getting pressured by his family. So he worked for thirty years for the forestry service, and then they retired him for health reasons. And then, he was, yeah -- And then he was a consultant for a while. Whereas I worked jobs all over the world. All over the state, all over the world. And I've had a great life, as I see it. But he didn't think that you could get enough jobs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Doing biology or zoology?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Being a wildlife biologist, being a teacher, being an environmental consultant, being a guide, being everything that I've been. The long list of jobs I've had in my life.

[00:05:04]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So in 1964 when you graduated, there were job opportunities?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. I was working for McKinley before I even graduated. I still had a semester to go before that. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what did you do for McKinley Park?

SCOTT HOME: I was the Chilkoot ranger -- ranger out at Toklat Ranger Station, about halfway out through the park.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: I had the whole beat between Teklanika Campground and Eielson Visitor Center. And I spent every one of my two days off hiking in the backcountry, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so, what were your duties?

SCOTT HOME: Patrolling the road every day in the pickup and patrolling the campgrounds that were outside of --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And mostly just keeping records of wildlife. There really weren't very many problems. People were glad for me to be out there with a tool kit when they had anything, but there really weren't that many.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well, that time, people could drive the road still.

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. Oh, everybody, yeah. Yeah. Everybody drove their own car to the campgrounds and didn't even have to have an advance permit. And then there were the buses, the tour buses everyday. I wanted to run up and down the highway on my days off, I just hitchhiked with one of those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, they still -- they already had tour buses going in?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. From the beginning, yeah. Yeah, the majority of people, back then, came in on the train.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Took the tour bus out of McKinley headquarters and they got back on the train.  
So yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Well, I know because the Parks Highway wasn't there yet.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: So that was the only way to get there.

SCOTT HOME: Every vehicle that came in, came in on a flat car.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So not everybody -- that was pretty prohibitive.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: You saw a young couple with young kids, and you knew they were of narrow means, you know. You knew they were really sticking out for -- for the experience because, yeah.

[00:06:40]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, and so, what was it about that first job that made you take an interest in doing more work like that and going into the Park Service?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, that's what I figured I was gonna do since I was a little kid. We hit all the national parks when we were kids, and my folks went on road trips and all that. We made a point of going to the parks and monuments and state parks and all that. Just right from the beginning, if you want to live out here, this is the job. So this is the one you should get. If you're interested in wildlife, so much the better. If you're interested in geology, so much the better. You've got some carpentry skills, so much the better. And if it doesn't bother you to pistol whip blue-hair for picking posies, so much the better. But we just didn't get really nasty guys back then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Everything seems to have changed. One of the rangers over at Glacier Bay got arrested for rape one time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: I just can't even imagine the situations got to.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah. Um, so you taught in Central America for --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, in British Honduras, it was then. I taught there for four years. I taught out in the Caribbean for a year.

[00:07:46]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And so, how did you find out about the Glacier Bay job? How did you --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, I just used to write for 'em. Ever -- after -- after the year I spent in McKinley, I applied again and never got accepted. And I wondered until it was 1970 when I got to Glacier Bay. And two guys there, Dave Nemath and Bill Ruth told me, "Don't you know Vernon Ruesch will never hire anybody who ever worked in McKinley before?" They'd both quit McKinley. They were both working in Glacier Bay. I couldn't stay on working in Glacier Bay, but they stuck it out, and then once Vernon Ruesch was finally out of the position, they went back to Glacier Bay, and they both wound up superintendents. So it can happen, whereas Phil and Doug and I never worked for the Park Service again at all and wound up in other agencies, so -- 'cause we just found them more supportive. This is -- a BLM ranger told me one time that people stand in line for those Park Service jobs, and they treat 'em like shit. Says, all these other agencies have these really good, you know, enjoyable field jobs, and if you apply for it, and you want

the job and you're fit, they'll take you and they'll back you. And that's what we all discovered.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and they treat you better?

SCOTT HOME: Uh-huh.

[00:08:53]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So what was the guy, Vernon? Is that what you said his name was?

SCOTT HOME: Vernon H. Ruesch. He had been superintendent of North Rim Grand Canyon for seventeen years, and they moved him up to McKinley Park, and he ran off just about everybody in the first eight or nine months, screaming at 'em, I heard. Yelling at 'em a lot of the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

SCOTT HOME: And I happened to be on the government plane when he was flown to his final stop. He was transferred from being superintendent of McKinley Park to being superintendent of Sitka for the last six months of his career, which kinda says an awful lot right there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, they transfer you down is never a good thing, right?

SCOTT HOME: Well, there were only three parks in Alaska back then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: There were only -- Sitka was the smallest. McKinley was the biggest.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what was the third one?

SCOTT HOME: Uh, Katmai. And Glacier Bay.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, well, four of them, actually, but yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah, at one point, McKinley was run out of the Katmai offices, back in the --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Fifties.

[00:09:54]SCOTT HOME: When I -- Yeah, when I first worked for Glacier Bay, there wasn't any regional office in Anchorage.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: There was just a couple of people and yeah, the Glacier Bay administered all the other parks here in Southeast, and McKinley all the others up in the Interior, and Katmai all the ones in the Southwest.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Just out of the same office, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Things actually worked much better then, I have to say. When we talked directly to provision clerks and all that, you know, people we were getting equipment from, when we were talking to them directly, well hell, things worked real well. Then when they got to where they took one person out of the McKinley office and one person out of the Glacier Bay and replaced them with seventeen people in Anchorage, everything went to crap.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well. The more bureaucracy, the bigger --

SCOTT HOME: I was on the phone one time. We raised (?) that phone trying to explain to the procurement officer in Anchorage why we needed new supplies for our first aid kit.

"Well, didn't you get a full kit?" "Yeah, and we've been using it." It's like, he's sitting up there, "Well gee, it says here --" It really get pretty far-fetched.

[00:10:56]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So what was your job in Glacier Bay when you were hired in, you said, 1970?

SCOTT HOME: 1970, I went on as an interpreter, which meant that I was mostly on the tour ships, the cruise ships and the tour boats. And because I was doing a lot of field research, I was able to paddle around in kayaks and canoes and grab skiffs when I needed them. And I wrote up a two hundred-page study on the mammals of Glacier Bay, which is how come I got offered the job of researching on the Outer Coast for those two winters, 'cause I'd already got that far.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And the Outer Coast was mostly a mammal track job 'cause there weren't that many birds out there during the winter, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

SCOTT HOME: And then, while I was -- yeah -- living out -- camping out all winter two times, and I was camping out all summer, and the Chilkoot was such an ideal job, and then Bob Howe just by God, persistently would not hire anybody who would even take -- would even get out of bed to do the job, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And he was superintendent at Glacier Bay?

SCOTT HOME: And he was superintendent at Glacier Bay. He hired a man for Glacier Bay at the time. He chose him. He picked him. He spent the next three years trying to get rid of him. Every single person that he hired in that five-year period I knew, he personally got rid of after he picked them. The only two people he hired that ever lasted with it were me. After I quit --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: -- he hired Phil Koehl, and after he finally got rid of Riley in Glacier Bay, he hired Jim Luthy. And both of them were fit for the job, and why he just chose to throw that money away for all those years? Could never understand him, so I couldn't work with anybody I couldn't understand, so.

[00:12:31]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, why would you hire people and then fire them, unle -- ?

SCOTT HOME: Far as I know, just because he thought that was fun. He was -- he'd worked the system his whole life, and here he had tens of thousands of dollars he could just throw away by ridiculing people and -- The way he'd talk about 'em, by the time he was finished with them, you could tell he'd ridiculed them from the word go. Like Richey (Roy Richey), the one that I quit rather than, had four blank pages of a government application. And Bob tells me, none of that makes any difference. Said, "Did you notice, he's twenty-seven years old, and he's never worked for a living?" "That doesn't make any difference." "You notice, he has no qualifications." "That doesn't make any difference." "Did you notice he spent six years getting a four-year degree in history -- in history, and he didn't work his way through?" "Oh, maybe he wanted an education instead of a diploma." Well, maybe he's a spoiled rich brat who never lifted a finger in his entire life. Then when he shows up, he's 5'6", weighs 120, and he's got a cute little French moustache, which means he spent a lot of time in front of a mirror. And that's just the kind of guy Bob would hire, when he could've had somebody who would actually do

the job. And that's when I'd had enough 'cause I'm doing -- I'm the one doing all the work.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And when he says it doesn't matter that the rest of them aren't, it means it doesn't matter to him that I am. So what am I doing there, so.

[00:13:50]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So tell me about that field research in the Outer Coast? What -- what did you do?

SCOTT HOME: Well, I was living out there in a field camp for two winters. I took a mid-winter break right in the middle of January. Other than that, I was tracking around all day, every day. I was wearing hip boots until the river and lakes all froze over, and then I was in snowshoes. And tracked around tracking all the mammal movement, bird movements, everything. Every -- every aspect of the winter --

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: -- changing, because they were talking about putting a mining road in through there to a site which never happened, fortunately.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good.

SCOTT HOME: They had a lot of people out there in the summer, but I was the only person in the winter for --

KAREN BREWSTER: And you did that for two winters?

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

[00:14:33]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember kinda what you recorded, what the overall -

SCOTT HOME: Oh, I put everything in a log. I wrote everything in a daily log, and then I had to label all the specimens. I was picking up shit all over, from all these creatures. All -- all those labeled. And yeah, all of that went back to Glacier Bay, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was there anything unexpected that you observed?

SCOTT HOME: Well, most of it was unexpected, 'cause I didn't know what I was expecting. I lived -- coexisted with three wolves and a wolverine. And we managed to use the same trails and go over the same country all winter and never intersected, even though I ran into the wolverine twice. And uh, that was nice.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Pleasant surprise to find out that it let me live. And the wolf, the lame female wolf, had to run by herself. She was lamer than the other two. And she sat on the other side of the cove one afternoon and howled for, oh, a couple of hours. Just gave me a personal concert right there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

SCOTT HOME: I listened to them howl from the top of the pass on to about any night. They came through once a week. Wolverine came through once a week.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: Had otter right around my camp, and mink. And a marten that got into my food box and ate up a whole -- yeah, beefsteak, beef. And yeah, it was a -- it was a scientific research job.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: I really documented everything, bird species and fish and insects and everything that were out all.

[00:15:57]KAREN BREWSTER: And did you have any training before they sent you out there?

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. I'd done all that camping in -- for the Park Service.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And all that previous field work and all that. Yeah, in Glacier Bay, I was out doing a lot of field work before they gave me that, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And your college degree, you'd had some experience in knowing how to do a scientific study?

SCOTT HOME: Mm. Um-hm. Yeah.

[00:16:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And so, how did it end up that you started doing things on the Chilkoot?

SCOTT HOME: Well, I was in Glacier Bay already. And the Chilkoot was Glacier Bay's operation. Bob Howe was superintendent for it, and when he first told me that, I said, "Boy, that is the ranger job I would like." I had -- Greg Streveler was a ranger in Glacier Bay, and I said, "Why do you keep hiring me as an interpreter when I keep applying as a ranger?" He said, "Oh, you'd have to prove you can do a ranger's job." I said, "What was wrong with the one I did in McKinley?" "You mean, you've been a ranger?" This is the guy who was supposed to have read the applications. He had no idea what anybody did. And he criticized everybody as fast as he hired 'em, just like Bob Howe. So when I heard that this was the only way I was ever going to make ranger, shit. Oh, he's -- Greg said, "If you want to be -- you are a good interpreter, but if you want to be a ranger, you've got to take a lot of crap, and you don't strike me as the kind of man who will take a lot of crap." So I guess he turned out to be right about that. So anyway, from the minute they first started mentioning this, I'm bugging Bob Howe, the superintendent, to get the job. And from the minute, he pretty much said so. So, back then I still believed him after he double-crossed every promise he made. But that's why I was hiking it in the fall of '72. I was expecting that I was going to get the job all right. And I scoped out -- I went and took my time. I scoped out the whole trip. I was picking out all these spots I wanted to climb or hike on my days off. And then two summers later, I never got to any of 'em because they keep sticking me with people that I can't even take days off.

[00:17:47]KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Well, let's get -- let's start with '70 -- so '72, you just hiked the Chilkoot on your own?

SCOTT HOME: After I was finished with Glacier Bay, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And all the way up to Dawson. I got a ride with the Parks Canada people and Wildlife Canada people all the way to Dawson. So I got the whole course scoped out. And then the next spring, when they were sending me and Chuck Nelson out for training, they were paying my way as a grunt to go along to these planning meetings. Because I was already involved in the whole planning from the base park.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So you got hired in that winter of '72-'73 for the ranger job?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, that was -- I had to send in the application in the middle of January, and I was out and I couldn't get any mail in. So back then and the next year, I sent the application in. I wrote on it 15th of January, sent it in to the lady in Anchorage. She kept

it on her desk 'til the 15th came, then she stomped it: "Received on the 15th," and I had the job, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ah, that's good.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[00:18:49]KAREN BREWSTER: So they finally relented and decided you were qualified to be the ranger?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah. Bob didn't -- the thing was, I was already working for Glacier Bay. I'm already on automatic rehire.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: He could not hire anybody over me. Doug (Sanvik) had military preference. He'd done three years in the army. Bob couldn't hire anyone over him if he wanted the job. So if we said we wanted it, he had to take us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: He could not not hire us. What he could do is get rid of us, which he did toot sweet but, yeah --

[00:19:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But I'm trying -- like, so because Klondike Park was not officially established as a park --

SCOTT HOME: 'Til '77.

KAREN BREWSTER: '77, so --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- why was -- what was the need to have rangers over here if this wasn't a park yet?

SCOTT HOME: Well, to get ready for the park. Chuck Nelson and I were both sent to the state troopers academy to be certified as state park rangers. Because state park rangers still had the legal authority over the Chilkoot.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Until it was transferred to the national park. So since we already were certified national park law officers, it only took a five-week course, and -- to put us on the state park. And then, when Nelson didn't come back the next year, that left only me as legally certified. And the third year, Nelson applied, and Bob wouldn't hire him, which meant he turned down the man he'd already spent so much money on, so he could pay somebody else who was just going to sit there all summer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And, uh.

[00:20:14]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I hadn't realized that before '76 when it was officially a national park --

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- that there was any ranger activity on the trail.

SCOTT HOME: Well, I regularly -- when I'm up and down the trail, I regularly got, "What's the National Park Service doing around here? I'm not complaining, I'm just surprised." But that was the beginning of the whole park program all over Alaska.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Of all the new parks were being created. And the ones that they knew for a fact were the ones they'd been planning since the 1920's, which Chilkoot was one of them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And Bob was also supervising the Yukon-Charley, and he offered -- he said he tried to get me the job there, and I wouldn't be about to have gone there when he wouldn't hire a hiker for a hiking job, I know he wouldn't hire a canoer for a canoeing job. And all I could imagine was trying to paddle upstream at high water with some big, fat slop sitting there not doing anything, so. Unfortunately -- Bob was a great guy. Everybody liked him personally, and he stayed in touch with all of us, but nobody could work with him. He just -- the uh -- [00:21:21] I built the Sheep Camp Ranger Station in '73. It's prefabbed over in Glacier Bay, and then we brought it over here and chopper lifted it in sections up there. Put it together. So at least I knew -- And I'd built other stuff, working for the Park Service, so at least they knew that I knew how to do it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: So he says, "I want you to build a cache before the second summer is over." And that's when this totally useless guy who quit early and took off anyway (cough). So he says, "Put it up on two logs so everything will be secure." So I found the perfect site, just not far away from the camp. Two logs, just exactly the right height, distance, and all that. And I measured it up, and I wrote up the plans for this whole cache. And I made up the lumber rec and sent it in, and as soon -- I got one chopper drop with it. And it was about fifteen minutes later, I'm on the radio saying, "Hey, what happened? I'm four plywood flats short." Oh no, Bob says, "I cut those to save money. Just leave off the bottom." You following me? Put it up on logs and leave off the bottom to save money?

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So with what I had, I cut it down to a really tight A-frame. This is supposed to have been good for years to come, and about all it was, was for storing what we already had up there. And, of course, that left me with lumber left over I didn't need, which I wouldn't have had. So he didn't save any money. He wasted the whole project. Somebody's going to have to do it sooner or later.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And pulling tricks like that, pulling a double-cross like that, I would put up with that as long as I really liked the job. But when he kept giving me partners that didn't even want to get up in the morning, didn't even want the job, didn't want to camp out all summer, didn't want to stay outside and be out on the trail, then I couldn't enjoy the job, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[00:23:02]SCOTT HOME: And then, when Doug and Phil -- the only two times -- the only time he put two qualified people were when Doug and Phil were on there, and they never went back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: They never complained, but I'd just get the feeling that --

KAREN BREWSTER: So it's Doug Sanvik and what was Phil's last name?x

SCOTT HOME: Phil Koehl.

KAREN BREWSTER: Koehl. C-O-L-E?

SCOTT HOME: K-O-E-H-L. He lives in retirement in the Upper Peninsula, Michigan, a town called Amasa.

[00:23:24]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Um, so yeah, it was you three guys. So this -- so at that time, the trail was not the way it is now, where you have these established campgrounds, and you have to -- ?

SCOTT HOME: No. You could tent camp anywhere under the state park rule. You could camp anywhere. Of course, you were bound to all your clean-camp rules and all that, but (cough) that's what we kept track of the first two years, was exactly where people were camping and how many specifically, so we could, you know, work toward management of the trail, but -- And then the minute I'm out of the picture or everybody's out of the picture, they just forget all that, throw it together. And somebody who never had anything, any personal experience, made all the decisions. Same thing happened up on the North Slope with BLM. I did the whole field work all summer, and then in two weeks, a pack of people from Washington, DC, just wrote off the whole policy, so.

[00:24:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, well yeah, I always -- I thought some of the campgrounds on the Chilkoot, the reason they're there is they're historic. Like Canyon City, Sheep Camp --

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. But that's not the only campground. Historically, people camped all the way up and down the summit.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So it is not unhistorical. What we were trying to do, get the sites that people picked because they were close to water, close to water that doesn't have to be boiled, have enough flat ground, and aren't contaminated already by previous campers. And that's what we were gonna -- station them out with so many people as long as there were -- well, if you came up and here's six people camped, then you weren't going to stay there. You'd just go on to the next campground, kind of thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: We didn't think you'd have to get really hard-nosed about it. But the minute they insisted, no, everybody's got to camp right here, that means you got super impact right there. And that's what I hear everybody's complaining about now, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, really.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, so eight or nine years ago. (cough) Karl Gurcke told me they had dug out my old logs from that early on to find out where these campsites were along the way so they could start re-managing. And Jay Cable, who was the chief ranger who didn't want me sticking around on the staff here, had told Karl Gurcke to throw those old books away. And Karl hadn't done it. They were the only artifacts from the first couple of years on the trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [00:25:42]Um. Yeah, I mean, it sort of makes sense if you had more campgrounds with fewer people in each campground versus --

SCOTT HOME: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: You know, I understand the reason they do it is to contain impact. But what you're saying is now --

SCOTT HOME: It's not doing it. It's not doing it. It's increasing impact --

KAREN BREWSTER: In one space?

SCOTT HOME: Instead of spreading it around, which is spreading impact around, is preferable for most hikers, for most campers, like myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, and it's -- it's a lot of impact in one place versus low impact spread around.

SCOTT HOME: And the worst part of it, the impact is right on top of the historic site, which most of the other campsites weren't, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Other than Happy Camp, you know, none of the other campgrounds were right where there had been historic camping. And then, that one -- that campground got wiped out in the flood back in the late '80's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, there was a flood, the river flooded?

SCOTT HOME: The river rose enough that it, yeah, flooded that campground, and so the only way around that was to put in a new campground somewhere further away on the trail from where the historic one was.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: But I don't know if they did that. I don't think they've done anything. I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't know. I mean, the Happy Camp campground is sort of up on the hillside above the river a little bit, but I don't know if that's --

SCOTT HOME: No, it was -- the campground originally, the one that flooded was down right above the river, and it flooded when the river rose.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So I don't know if its current location is at the historic one or not.

SCOTT HOME: I'd hope not, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't know.

SCOTT HOME: I haven't been up there. Doug would know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[00:27:16]SCOTT HOME: '72 -- '74, we tracked the old original trail through Sheep Camp on the other side of the river. The other side of Pleasant Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Oh, it was on the other side?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, the original. And we could find it then. We could find it by the litter of garbage along the way and where the game trail was.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

SCOTT HOME: And when Frank Norris tried to do that by himself in the middle '80's, late '80's, he said he couldn't even get through the growth there. He couldn't find the way, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's what I was --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, we were doing all kinds of that kind of research in the early days of -

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and that's why I was wondering is, if in those early days in the '70's, yeah, was -- was -- what the trail was like. Were people using it? Was it overgrown?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. We had about a hundred people a week when we first started.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: We kept a weekly count, and when we first radioed in to Glacier Bay, they were surprised. They thought there'd just be a few, and there turned out to be a, you know, a hundred the first week, and it just went up from there. The Canada Day, Fourth of July weekend was always crowded. People coming from both sides.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But yeah, there was business every day. There was business. Once we -- in fact, once we started getting into business up there in the spring, there were people going by already. And once we closed down in the fall, there were still people going, so.

[00:28:36]KAREN BREWSTER: So what was your routine as a ranger? Where did you guys stay?

SCOTT HOME: We stayed in Sheep Camp. We -- I built a ranger station there, and it was just outside the immediate impact area. And we, every day -- see, we each had two days off, technically. So we were only on duty three days a week. So on the days we were on alone, we were all supposed to go up to the summit. And did that except for this one character who slept half the time. And then, when there were two of us on, that's when we could take care of, like, clearing fallen trees --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: -- and fixing bridges and -- (cough) And if there was nothing else going, one of us would go up to the summit, and the other would go down to Canyon City and back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And that turned out to be not a really necessary operation, so they trimmed that back to sending people up there, individual rangers, just for eight days at a time. And then all of them going up to the summit and back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Every day?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah.

[00:29:36]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, and that -- the purpose of going to the summit every day and back?

SCOTT HOME: Safety checks. Keeping track on all the hikers. I had this count in my head every morning when I started up there of all the people I figured were coming, and I'd keep a count up at the summit until they were all through, and if somebody was missing, I'd start yelling. And I'd hear people yell out of the fog up there that had got off the trail. But as long as I still thought I had the count, then I'd stay up there. If it was through, then I used to go across the ridgetop there. There was another lake over there with a glacier in it and then come down the cliffs all over there. There were a lot of alternate paths. (cough) And most of them have been destroyed by landslide, by snowslides, avalanches, and all that since then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And now, did you mark the way up the Golden Staircase the way they do now?

SCOTT HOME: We put snow stakes out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: As long as the snow was up there. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: But we didn't keep poles up there after the snow was gone.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. 'Cause now they have poles up there.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, well. These were temporary.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well --

SCOTT HOME: We had to keep straightening them up all the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: I think they do that still.

SCOTT HOME: Well, actually, the people on our side weren't doing it half the time. It was the Canadian wardens coming down because they kept hiring people just like Bob Howe

hired, who sat on their butts out on the deck of the ranger station all summer, never went anywhere. I got word one evening, there was a girl lamed up at Crater Lake over the -- on the Canadian side, and I did my all-time record climb of one hour and fifteen minutes to get from Sheep Camp to the north shore -- or south shore of Glacier --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh my goodness.

SCOTT HOME: Crater Lake. And Mark Boudreau, the Canadian warden, had ten miles to come, and he was there by the time I got there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: And the next -- the guy who was following right after me never even went to the pass. He sat on his rear end at the ranger station. He would say over the radio he was up there, and then Jerry Watson, the trail crew --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: -- would come by five minutes later and find him sitting right there, lying his - and that was the guy they promised the personal seasonal -- permanent seasonal job to, that Jay Cable was so determined not to give me. 'Cause I was thinking that would be it for my life if I got that.

[00:31:39]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, I was just going to ask something about the, um -- I got distracted by the one hour and fifteen minutes. Having just done the trail, I'm like, wow. That's amazing.

SCOTT HOME: That was a pretty good record.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I know what I was going to ask you about. You -- whether there were two rangers or one ranger stationed at Sheep Camp at a time? You said sometimes there were two of you, and sometimes there was just one?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, mostly yeah, under Bob Howe, there was just one of me. Art Mortvedt used to spend all -- five days, four days out of every week, in town. He'd take the two days off, he'd go to town. He'd go down trail the day before he took off, very early, and he'd come back the day after his day off very late, so he was in town four days of the week, and I was out there, yeah. But he was getting paid for two of those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, 'cause you're patrolling as you're coming in and out?

SCOTT HOME: Right. Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: He didn't do any of it. He didn't clear trees. He didn't help anybody out. He didn't -- In fact, he was so goddamned stupid everybody laughed at him. That's how I could tell when he hadn't been on the trail. If I'd been up the trail going to the pass, and I came back -- we're supposed to interrogate everybody back then. Our chief scientist was a sociologist, and we broke everybody down into the most complicated groups. You know, father/son, father/daughter, mother/son, mother/daughter, family of four, family of six, whatever. So we had to ask everybody, and if I started asking these questions when I came back down from the pass, if people started laughing, then I'd know they'd run into him. Because everybody laughed at him. He was not very intelligent, and he'd bark all these questions at 'em. And if they didn't laugh any, then I'd know they hadn't seen him at all. He'd been sleeping all day. He'd sneak around and sneak back and come into the station once I'd left and then he'd just sack out. He did that when I was right there, so. When Bob Howe said that's the kind of person he wants, he doesn't care that he doesn't do any job, I figured, well, this is not the place for me. This is --

[00:33:40]KAREN BREWSTER: So you prefer being there by yourself, it sounds like?

SCOTT HOME: Well, it turned out that way.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: But the reason I hoped somebody else would do the job and take his two days off is, as I said, I planned on a whole bunch of side activities, climbs and explorations and all that. And two summers, I never got any of it, because the other guy was never around. The day that I had -- the day the -- a guy fell off a cliff, whistled, Dorkface didn't pay any attention to it at all. Came back so he wouldn't be late for dinner. I find the guy the next day. He just left him to die. That would get you fired anywhere else.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: And it didn't even bother Bob. Wouldn't even reprimand him then when he told him later on, "You stand around like you don't know what to do." And Dorkface says, "Well, I don't." And then he just gave him an evaluation that said, not recommended for rehire here. Recommended for rehire elsewhere? Yes, just like everybody else did, so.

[00:34:33]KAREN BREWSTER: But so, this guy who fell off a cliff, it was up on the Golden Staircase?

SCOTT HOME: No, he was way off of it. He had got up there in the fog. He didn't know where -- this is -- this is the kind of people that were up there risking our own lives to take care of, is people that haven't got enough goddamn sense to take care of themselves.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: But he decided if he -- he knew he wasn't on the trail, but if he thought if he just keep going, he'd get over. Now, that's where this whole peak rises up to a, you know -- So he'd taken a bad fall. He'd stayed in his sleeping bag, but it was still there. He was carrying it with him.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: But I could see his pack, way the hell up there on the cliff.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: So when I went up to get it, I had to wait 'til some friends of mine would do backup because I couldn't count on Mortvedt, for God's sake. He wouldn't even -- and that was a day off for me, except I was up there by myself because he wasn't doing it. He was sacking out, I guess. And that kinda thing just ran real thin. Why should I be doing all this, when he's happy that somebody's not doing anything?

KAREN BREWSTER: But so, this guy that fell off the cliff, he was still alive when you found him?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. He walked all the way down to Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: What I had to do back then, I had to radio Glacier Bay. Glacier Bay had to telephone the Skagway Police. Skagway Police telephoned state troopers in Haines. State troopers brought up a chopper from Juneau and pick him up, up at Sheep Camp.

[00:35:47]KAREN BREWSTER: And what were his injuries?

SCOTT HOME: Well, he'd been -- he'd fallen. He'd hit -- he had blood all over his face. He had blood all over his crown. Lucky, he could keep walking at all. He was banged up, you know, all over his body.

KAREN BREWSTER: But he didn't break anything?

SCOTT HOME: No, he could still walk.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: But he certainly couldn't have kept walking very long.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But he -- his -- he'd taken his pack off and left -- and fallen --

SCOTT HOME: He left his pack and when he started the next morning.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

SCOTT HOME: He spent the night fallen up there in his backpack.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: In his sleeping bag. And there was a wolverine up at -- around that pass at the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: And if it's there, all you have to do is stand up. But if somebody's so incapacitated they couldn't stand up, it's not exactly a very good feeling.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

SCOTT HOME: And this big idiot wouldn't even listen to somebody whistling. Next several days, he was chasing varied thrushes through the woods because I said, "Next time somebody whistles, maybe you should pay attention." He chased varied thrushes through the woods, and he put that in the log. "Pursued a whistle until told by Home to cease and desist."

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Just total hopeless --

[00:36:47]KAREN BREWSTER: What about other -- you said there -- people were not as well prepared to hike the --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, you always get those people. You always get people who didn't take enough heavy equipment, or people who aren't used to going up rocky surfaces, for example. There's lots of turned ankles and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But no more than anybody could handle.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: One guy had a heart attack on the pass, and he'd already been told by his doctor not to do this because he was in bad shape. And he's boasting about how tough he is, and we have to call a chopper and a doctor to carry him off because he's so damn tough.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: That was -- but that's, yeah. We -- that's -- that's your job. You deal with people who -- that, you know, you hope you can help because they certainly can't help themselves. And it doesn't happen -- I always thought we'd be dealing mostly with kids and old folks and injuries. But kids have reflexes, and old folks have experience.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And the people that do the most injurious to themselves are these damn prime-of-life people that you expect would have enough of basic sense that's better than. So actually, yeah.

[00:37:48]KAREN BREWSTER: But even though you had to deal with all those people and injuries and all that, it was still your ideal job?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, absolutely. Camping out all summer, being out in the open, climbing every day up through fog and mist, there are beautiful days, yeah. That was my ideal job. All it took was one more person who at least gave enough of a hoot to do it, and it would've been.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Well, and it's interesting that on your days off, you didn't want to come back to town.

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: You wanted to go exploring.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Well, and the guys that he stuck up there couldn't stand not to go to town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Every week. And then, after Doug and Phil left, the summer -- the next summer, Bob hired two of his kind of people, and they both spent most of the summer in town together. Instead of just one of them lounging around, doing nothing, they both lounged around, doing nothing.

[00:38:34]KAREN BREWSTER: Now, though, working with Doug and Phil, though, they were equally --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- um, interested as you were?

SCOTT HOME: Doug and I -- Phil and I never met except that one time when he was leaving. But after he spent a summer up there, he and I traded a lot of letters because he was interested -- he'd found different things, birds, plants, all this stuff that he was -- weren't on my list, and he was interested in keeping in touch with me. So yeah, Doug and Phil and I all had the same interests. Well, if he had hired Phil instead of Richey, I would've probably been there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Forty years later, girl comes into the visitor center in Skagway and says, "I'm a good friend of Roy Richey." He was the one that Bob hired, the blank application.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Says, "He's still working seasonal." I says, "He never got on permanent?" "Oh, I don't think he wants to be permanent." Well, according to Phil, that was what was driving him, was he was determined to be career.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

SCOTT HOME: But anyway, the funny thing was, he is the only one of us who stuck with the Park Service. Forty years later. The rest of us went off to other agencies, and I sometimes think, maybe if he'd let me choose my partner, and I'd chosen Phil, maybe I would've wound up thirty years later somewhere in the East, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Because I would've stayed with the career, so. So I'm not unhappy with the way things happened. Phil isn't. Doug isn't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[00:39:46]SCOTT HOME: So the fact that we kind of see that Bob pulled his dirty tricks, I mean, he pulled a real double cross on me when he said -- after Mortvedt took off, he says, "You can pick your own partner next year." Well, that was the only -- that was all I

needed. That was the solution. So then, he radios me in the middle of January, and he reads off these three top-qualified people that he says, choice of partners. They all were top-qualified. They all sounded good. Just put them one, two, and three, rank 'em. It was just arbitrary. So I stopped feeling -- I'd been feeling good all fall, 'cause this is really going to work out. I stopped feeling good, and I start feeling high. That lasted just exactly ten days. I took a mid-winter break, and I went into the office in the federal building in Juneau, and he throws this blank application at me, says, "There's your partner." Says, "Those other three guys got jobs, so I grabbed him before anybody else got him." And that's when I said, "Did you notice, nobody else is going to get this guy?"

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: So. So it was such a kick in the gut, such a letdown.

[00:40:52]KAREN BREWSTER: So you did that season, and then you quit?

SCOTT HOME: No, I -- I was still out on the Outer Coast of Glacier Bay that winter.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: This was before '75. '74-'75.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: So it would've been the summer of '75, but I quit as soon as -- as soon as he showed me that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So you worked the trail '70 --

SCOTT HOME: '73 and '74.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then you quit -- you quit in '75 because of this double cross.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: That and everything else that had been going on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: That was the last straw by that time, yeah.

[00:41:25]KAREN BREWSTER: So when you worked with Doug, were you guys partnered at the Sheep Camp station at the same time, and you alternated days on and off?

SCOTT HOME: No. We mostly were busy on construction of that -- the -- that cache that I talked about.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And on clearing bridges. We had several bridges wash out. And clearing trees. We didn't -- yeah, we were together more of the time than not.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: In that case. But that's closing up. That's the end of the season kind of stuff.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, he mentioned something about end of the season getting all your stuff together and putting it out into a cache in the woods someplace.

SCOTT HOME: The cache. That's what we built. Yeah, that was the one we built. But I had to carry the whole radio and all the apparatus down to the trail, down to the road and all the way into Skagway. I didn't get a ride that night. He and his girlfriend went over the summit to go the other way, so I had to carry out everything else.

[00:42:16]KAREN BREWSTER: Well yeah, that's what I was wondering, is what kind of equipment and stuff you had at the Sheep Camp station?

SCOTT HOME: Well, all of our personal stuff. What we left up stored were just the Colemans, the lanterns, the stoves, and all the stuff that had to be protected from the weather. But we didn't leave any of our personal stuff up there. That's what we had to carry out. And I used to carry my typewriter, too, up and back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: My Smith-Corona portable, because I couldn't stand to sit there and write by hand. I tried that for a couple of weeks and it drove me nuts. So -- so I'd ship my typewriter in in the spring, when the helicopter load, and then I'd haul it out in the fall, so. Along with everything else.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what kind of things were you writing?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, I write fiction. I've had a lot of short stories published over the years. Lots of articles. I had articles on the Chilkoot at the time. I had -- those two winters, wrote most of the stories that are in a book. My first book is short stories, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what's that titled?

SCOTT HOME: "Hollow Faces, Merciless Moons." There's a copy in the library. Nobody's ever checked it out.

KAREN BREWSTER: But that's personal essays, or that's -- ?

SCOTT HOME: No, short stories.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's right. Short stories.

SCOTT HOME: I am, quote, "the world's greatest living master of horror fantasy," unquote.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: That's Meade Frierson. He was a big editor back in the '70's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, cool. [00:43:36]So I'm wondering also what other types of amenities you may have had at that Sheep Camp. You said you had a radio, and you had Coleman lanterns.

SCOTT HOME: We just had a radio to Glacier Bay. We only -- we didn't even have -- we didn't get very good connection the first year, even. I had to replace the whole antennae. But we just had the Coleman stove. We had an oil stove at the time, for the heat and drying out, mostly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Then Coleman lanterns, and that was it, pretty much. We had all the dishes we needed. We lived really well. The first summer, Chuck Nelson was a good cook. And when you're living out, camping out like that, it's important to have a good cook. We made donuts at Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: Bob Howe, the Sweet Tooth had just opened in town, and they were selling donuts. And Bob would tell us, "Meet me at the trailhead at 10:30, and I'll take you guys to town to get you some donuts." We said, "So what. We had donuts for breakfast already right here." (cough) We cooked cakes and puddings and all kinds of fancy dishes up there. Whenever there was anybody that we knew, anybody came through that could eat with us, we could fix a lot of food because you had to eat it all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: You know, you had to clean everything up before -- So between the two of us, sometimes it just wasn't enough to make something big and fancy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Nelson was a good cook. Had no complaint about him around camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: And he was -- he was a camp -- pro camp partner. He just didn't like the job. He didn't like camping out. And he kept saying that, down at Make Leade -- "Lake Meade, we had a barbecue pit and a swimming pool and all that." Like, he didn't like living up here. So he goes to Rushmore, Mount Rushmore, for I suppose they have a barbecue pit and a swimming pool.

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

SCOTT HOME: That's in South Dakota.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: And, then the next year, Bob told me afterward that he applied for the job back, and I certainly would've taken him over who we got.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: But his kind of management, I just couldn't live with.

[00:45:31]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so all those -- your food supplies and the things you needed for construction, was that all helicoptered in at the beginning of the season?

SCOTT HOME: Right at the beginning, yeah. Right. The only time we got another drop was for that cache lumber, the one that was four plats short.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And then, we had to carry out any food that was left over at the end, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Was there ever any food left over at the end?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, the usual idiots. The same guy who sat and stared into space had two full backpacks loaded up at the end of the season for him. Somebody else helped him carry that out. He said he was just overburdened. But the rest of us usually managed to get it pretty -- pretty precise.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what about any fresh food?

SCOTT HOME: Only if we came into town, and like if -- Chuck Nelson really liked to run into town to get mail, so he picked up fresh food on the way back up. Um, well, more than once, I'd meet him at the trailhead. I'd go down thirteen miles, meet him. He'd show up with a heavy, fairly heavy, pack of fresh food, and then we'd both come back up the trail. Twenty-six miles, you know, for me, anyway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Like, you say that like that's nothing. Like, ah, twenty-six miles.

SCOTT HOME: Well, really it wasn't. Whenever Bob wanted to talk to us, he'd call us in the morning, 8:00, and said, "I'll be at trailhead at 10:30." We go down thirteen miles. He picks us up, takes us into town. We'd chit-chat. He brings us back out, usually with some fresh food, and we'd walk back up, twenty-six miles -- thirteen miles. So it's round trip is twenty-six miles on your day and on your feet. That's why (cough) I already knew that Roy Richey must have really impressed Bob when he showed up. He's 5'6", weighs 120. Bob complained about other people being lousy slackers. He complained about Nelson being a slacker. And Dorkface wouldn't carry anything at all, so. For anybody else, that would've been a punchline.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: But for Bob, he must have really looked forward to that. He's really going to have a lot of complaints that summer.

[00:47:36]KAREN BREWSTER: And how old were you when you were doing that?

SCOTT HOME: Well, I was thirty-three when I started on the Chilkoot. 'Til I was thirty-five.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow, so you weren't, you know, a twenty-year-old. You must've been really in tip-top shape and a good hiker.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: To do twenty-six miles.

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. But so did Nelson. I mean. Well, let's see, I don't know if he --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and Doug.

SCOTT HOME: Doug could do it, yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I mean, you guys obviously were, um, physically fit for the job.

SCOTT HOME: Well, you can't not be when you're up and down the trail every day. If you do that, you're gonna be in shape. Otherwise, you don't make it. If you sleep every day like Dorkface did, or whatever, of course you're not going to be fit. The thing that particularly rubbed my face was, every day, we'd meet the Canadian wardens. Every one of them were well chosen. They were qualified. They were fit. And they all lived right around there, or at least they'd lived in conditions. They knew how to handle all that life, and they liked it. And I have them every day to face, and then the guy on our side, half the time doesn't even show up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: The Canadian wardens would be saying over the radio, "We came -- went down on your side and re-soaked -- reput -- placed your snow stakes, Greg." "Oh well, ok. Good." And uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, frustrating.

SCOTT HOME: Why -- why he -- I mean, it's one thing to make such a bad impression on the community. He's also making a bad impression on our cooperating park service.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Why are you so determined to do that? But I think it's just thirty-three years of compulsion, compulsive habit. (cough)

KAREN BREWSTER: Would you like some water?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. I'll get some.

[00:49:16]KAREN BREWSTER: So you mentioned, um, when you were the ranger, you were sort of doing some trail work, 'cause you said bridges.

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. There wasn't any trail crew then. It was the two of us were it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. That was my question. So since there was no trail crew, you as rangers had to do the maintenance?

SCOTT HOME: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Are there any particular spots you remember?

SCOTT HOME: Not particularly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Any bridge or anything?

SCOTT HOME: Well, we had several bridges down one time, during the flood. And we had to replace those with fallen logs, because we didn't have any other means of reconstructing a bridge.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: That was Doug and me on that one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: But things would happen, like Chuck Nelson, as I say, he was ok around the camp, but he didn't like the job. If I went up the pass for two days straight 'cause he had the day off, and then I went up there the next day after that when he came back, and then I went down trail and I came back and said, "We've got to clear a tree at such-and-such." And he'd say, "Oh yeah, that one." Mr. Ranger's climbing over this tree with the Swede saw and not paying any attention, just like, you know, he didn't feel any responsibility. And that's the way Bob Howe hired everybody else he hired. They're just gonna stand around in a uniform and talk. And not expected to do anything.

[00:50:40]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So when you hiked around, you always carried a Swede saw with you?

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: When you were on duty?

SCOTT HOME: No. Only when I knew there was a tree that had -- no. One time I cleared fifteen trees in a row, coming down the lower trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

SCOTT HOME: And uh, Dorkface was -- managed never to catch up with me behind me for the whole time.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you did that by hand with a Swede saw?

SCOTT HOME: With a Swede saw, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So no chainsaw.

SCOTT HOME: No, we didn't even have a chainsaw.

KAREN BREWSTER: And the Sheep Creek --

SCOTT HOME: (cough)

KAREN BREWSTER: The Sheep Creek Ranger Station, you said you built.

SCOTT HOME: Sheep Camp Ranger Station, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I mean Sheep Camp, yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Prefabbed that over in Glacier Bay.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you didn't need quite all the tools?

SCOTT HOME: We had -- no, we had everything there. We did all the electrical tools there. And then --

KAREN BREWSTER: On site?

SCOTT HOME: In Glacier Bay at the shop.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

SCOTT HOME: But all we did then was drill holes that we put cord through so that when we lifted the sections of the -- of it up into the Sheep Camp, we just put all the cords back together and put bolts through there where we had the cord.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: To hold 'em together.

[00:51:38]KAREN BREWSTER: So how did you get it from Glacier Bay to Sheep Camp?

SCOTT HOME: The "Nunatak" was the old ship that they used to run out in Glacier Bay, and it carried 'em up to the harbor here. We had a flatbed truck. We carried 'em out to Dyea, out to the Flats. And the chopper was waiting there to pick them up and lift them all the way up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So you did use a chopper.

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. Every -- every spring, we had a chopper.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so -- but not in the fall? The chopper didn't come and --

SCOTT HOME: No.

[00:52:11]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, were there outhouses at that point in that -- in those camps?

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm. Not all the campsites, but there were in all the camps, and they weren't -- that was one of our jobs, to try to keep them clean, which was, yeah, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the -- the -- all the camps weren't established. You said, back then, people could kinda camp wherever.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. We just kept track of along by miles, by the mileposts and distances.

And yeah, we could pick out several ideal campsites.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you picked out campsites and built outhouses there?

SCOTT HOME: No, we didn't pick out campsites. We registered who was camping in places.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And we just registered which the popular camps were. Up to the last time, my two summers, no, they hadn't built any more outhouses.

KAREN BREWSTER: So where were the outhouses? At Sheep Camp?

SCOTT HOME: We didn't -- yeah, just at Sheep Camp and Canyon City.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Oh yeah, 'cause you said you would go down to Canyon City.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So Canyon City was kind of another more established --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- place.

SCOTT HOME: That was the other -- when we did the down trail, if there wasn't anything else lower in the trail to be tended to, we just went from Sheep Camp down to Canyon City and back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Were there other facilities at Canyon City? Like, a shelter or anything?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, the shelter. There were the big cabin with all the sleeping facilities. Both Canyon City and Sheep Camp had those.

KAREN BREWSTER: They were already there?

SCOTT HOME: Already, yeah. They were -- the state parks had already built those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: The state parks built those in '65.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

[00:53:39]SCOTT HOME: State parks has always had a maintenance crew on the Chilkoot in the spring, just for a few weeks or whatever it took.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: It was usually, according to the then-director, usually a bunch of prison guys.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Who were just hankering -- anything to get out.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I've heard that it was -- yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: On both sides. Was that on the Canadian side, too?

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did they use --

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- prison labor? No. It was just the --

SCOTT HOME: Just the American side. Just -- in fact, just the Alaska side. State of Alaska, state prisoners.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Yeah, I've heard that they used those for a while. But that was in the '60's?

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm. No, the state park superintendent was -- went up the trail with us, first time we went up in '73, and then that was it. I never saw him again.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, so he took you up there?

SCOTT HOME: Well, he just went along with us, yeah, on that first run.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And then, that was the end of his -- superintendent, he and the superintendent were still in touch over the trail guide. And then other than that, everything has been turned over to the Park Service, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[00:54:42]KAREN BREWSTER: And I say, you guys were Park Service employees, so it kinda became a Park Service -- Somehow the state parks and the Park Service were doing some negotiations before it became an official park.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah. Transferring the property itself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Transferring the legal right to the land.

KAREN BREWSTER: But isn't -- doesn't the state still own land on both sides of the corridor? And BLM also?

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm. I think -- I don't think BLM owns any land. We've been through this. I think it's all state mental health lands that --

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: -- that's what the state owns. But BLM does not have any land through here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: I thought they did.

KAREN BREWSTER: I thought they did.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. No, they don't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: In fact, they have hardly any jurisdiction in Southeast Alaska 'cause it's all Forest Service.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Yeah, I thought they still had a little bit.

SCOTT HOME: I think everything got settled between the state's mental health land and -- and that's pretty much it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And the Forest Service, which is --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And even though the state has land on the -- around the corridor of the trail --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Outside of what's the National Park, --

SCOTT HOME: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- they don't do any management or anything?

SCOTT HOME: No, they don't. Originally, that was going to be part of the park.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: That's one of the things they squabbled about.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that the park is pretty narrow corridor on the Chilkoot.

[00:55:56]SCOTT HOME: Well, I worked for the Forest Service, and they have -- right here in town, they had the reservations, you know, for the radio car and the cabins up the trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: Up the railroad. So yeah, the Forest Service is that close to town. That's what - that's their property.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what did you do for the Forest Service?

SCOTT HOME: Well, I worked as a guide, which is, I manned the visitor information center. I gave walks up the trails. And gave presentations down at the ferry dock, and so forth.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like interpretive stuff?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I didn't realize that the Forest Service did that in Skagway.

SCOTT HOME: Just did it for a few years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And then they got cut. The funding got cut. Didn't get much business. Got more business on the few people that wanted to walk the trails, you know, and get the trail hike than just came wandering into the --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: -- to the visitor center.

KAREN BREWSTER: And again, that -- what year was that?

SCOTT HOME: Uh, '96.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. 'Cause I was going to say, if it was before the park.

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

SCOTT HOME: No, it was a long while after.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because the --

[00:56:55]SCOTT HOME: In fact, because the park was there, I still did all my bookkeeping through the park. I still washed the rig through the park and all that because --

KAREN BREWSTER: So they had some kind of a co-op agreement or something?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, because I was the only Forest Service employee who was in town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, 'cause I was thinking, they couldn't really probably compete with the Park Service operation by that point.

SCOTT HOME: No. No, in fact, it was, uh, I can't say I was regretful that they closed it down 'cause they didn't get any business. I like reading, but I spent more time that summer reading than I think I've spent in God only knows. I mean, there just wasn't -- for hours

at a time, nobody even walked -- the problem that cord -- corner, right there opposite the railroad station.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, so it was right in town on -- on Broadway?

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm. Well, it's on 2nd Street.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, on 2nd Street.

SCOTT HOME: Right across from the railroad station.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the -- the -- yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: The current railroad station.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Right. And, uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh.

SCOTT HOME: Didn't get enough business to be worth funding, so.

[00:57:51]KAREN BREWSTER: So in '75, you quit Glacier Bay?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because of the frustration with the administration.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, what did you do after that?

SCOTT HOME: Well, the summer -- I often said this, if I weren't so slow-witted, by the time I walked out of the Park Service office that morning, I could've dropped three more applications in. I could've done the Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries, and Fish and Wildlife. But I didn't think of that because it was such a gut-kick to find out I'm, you know, this is it. My career -- my career with the Park Service was over. So I didn't get a job that summer, so came back through Skagway, and some friends of mine -- I got the house in Atlin I was going to live in for the summer. I had to write up the study, this two-year study. I'm still officially employed until the 3rd of September.

KAREN BREWSTER: The Outer Coast study?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, ok.

SCOTT HOME: By the university. I'm still officially employed 'til the 30th of September just to write it up. So I came through town on my way to take up residence there, and friends of mine were going to do a cross-country. Zodiacs and hikes all the way around Tagish Lake and Atlin Lake and all the way -- run up the Atlin River and all that. So that's what I did that summer was -- by the time I got settled down in Atlin to start finish writing again, it was about three or four weeks before I got all my communications restored, and by that time, it was only about a month 'til the end of the summer, so. And then, I started grad school that fall.

KAREN BREWSTER: So that was the fall of '70 --

SCOTT HOME: '75.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And then I started grad school that fall.

[00:59:22]KAREN BREWSTER: So, ok, so then you went -- and so, why did you decide to go to grad school?

SCOTT HOME: 'Cause after working out in the field for several years, I realized I needed to know more things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: It certainly did help. Everybody says it helps your -- your -- your employment.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But then, everybody in Alaska's got a master's degree. The main reason I went to get it was to learn more, and since I spent seven years doing most of the field work 'cause I just enjoyed it, why, you know, I figured that it didn't matter what it looked like on my resume. I really benefited a lot.

[00:59:54]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So at that point, did you still think you were going to come back and have a Park Service career?

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. I knew I couldn't have one as long as Bob Howe was still along. And then in '79, the new superintendent -- Doug introduced me to the new superintendent. He kinda let us know that he wasn't open to hiring anybody Bob Howe had ever hired because of all the bad feeling he'd run into in town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: (cough) He really didn't care what anybody'd done, it's just he'd decided to make a clean break.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And I agreed with that. I would've done the same thing myself. So I didn't think about it until there was a whole new staff back in the '80's, and I was sending applications out all over. I thought when I was in Fairbanks, I got a job every year, no problem at all. When I decided I had my house here, from '84 on, I thought, well, I can spend my sum -- my winters at home, and I'll get jobs all over. And I didn't get answers from all over the state. So by '86, Jeff -- Jay Cable finally hired me back on the Chilkoot and then let me know he didn't give a hoot about my experience, my background. He didn't want me around. Told me that every year. So while he keeps hiring this -- Slapstick, the guy that just sits and stares into space, said he was going to make him the permanent seasonal, so once again, I figured I'd get run off from the job that I thought was ideal. But --

[01:01:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Uh, so you went to grad school, '75 to --

SCOTT HOME: '81. I wasn't -- I wasn't in school most of that time, but I was -- between the time I signed up and the time I got my degree, just under seven years.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you got your degree in '81, right?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, '82, actually.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And so, you said you had no problem getting summer jobs during those years.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: What kind of work?

SCOTT HOME: Biologist, field biologist, field -- worked out on the Arctic ice with a whale count for the National Marine Fisheries. I flew all over the North Slope for BLM. Uh, I worked down in the Forest Service down in Petersburg, down in the rain forest. I sailed all over the Arctic Ocean one summer with Fish and Wildlife. The only jobs I ever got from the state were all centered in towns, but they kept me going out to the field, so. The four years I worked for DEC in Fairbanks, '89-'93, I traveled all over the North Slope, all over the state.

KAREN BREWSTER: Doing what?

SCOTT HOME: I was an environmental analyst, an environmental specialist, checking into oil spills and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

SCOTT HOME: -- contaminated sites and writing up pre-development -- Most of the rewarding part was being able to write up pre-development studies when nothing's happened yet, and you can maybe prevent anything going bad, so. That was my biggest job under DEC, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool. Um.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, I enjoyed all of them. I had a great time with all of them.

[01:02:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that's great. And so, those were all seasonal, and in the winter you went back to Fairbanks to work on your degree, or you came down here?

SCOTT HOME: Up until -- well, I came down here. I spent time back and forth, but yeah, I spent some winter time here, and then I did spend -- once I got my degree done, I didn't go back to Fairbanks again.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: After -- after oh, '81.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um.

SCOTT HOME: But I kept writing. I've had -- you know, I was having stories published all the time. I got a lot of positive feedback there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

SCOTT HOME: So I structured my life, basically, to give me time to write, basically, without disturbance, and then still have jobs I liked, and it worked out pretty well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I mean, the fact that you could do, you know -- sounds like you did a lot of summer seasonal, and then your winters, you'd be writing?

SCOTT HOME: That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is that kinda how you did it?

SCOTT HOME: That's right. That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's pretty -- [01:03:38]But when you worked for Glacier Bay and were the -- was the trail ranger on the Chilkoot, was that seasonal, or that was year-round work?

SCOTT HOME: No, that was seasonal. Um, at Glacier Bay, I was only a seasonal ranger, and that included the Chilkoot.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: When I was on the Outer Coast, I was a biologist. I was technically under contract to the University, except Glacier Bay was my supervisor.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: The biologist who was my supervisor was one of the rangers there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And those were the same years?

SCOTT HOME: Yep.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you did summer, Chilkoot. Winter, Outer Coast. Back and forth, ok.

SCOTT HOME: That was ideal.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Would've been ideal.

KAREN BREWSTER: To have a year-round opportunity like that.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Doesn't -- doesn't come easily, as you said.

SCOTT HOME: No, it doesn't. No, I felt very, very lucky about all that.

[01:04:23]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But then you said in '86, you were back working on the Chilkoot?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, he finally hired me back.

KAREN BREWSTER: As a --

SCOTT HOME: For the next four years, as a ranger.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And then kept telling me the whole time, he didn't want any of my experience from all the years before.

KAREN BREWSTER: So tell me about that, those years in the '80's.

SCOTT HOME: Well, that was when we were down to -- you were up on the -- at Sheep Camp one -- one eight-day period a month. Four of us rotated through there in the summer, so we were only up there four weeks during the summer. And in that case, we all went up to the pass and back, except for the guy who sat on his rear end.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you had eight days straight -- ?

SCOTT HOME: At Sheep Camp, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: At Sheep Camp. And then three weeks off? No, what did you do?

SCOTT HOME: No, we had three weeks -- five days off after we came off of eight days straight. And then, we did five-day schedules here in Glacier Bay, right down here in Dyea. That was -- we either did the patrols, we did the fire patrol, or we managed the -- the ranger station desk right across the street.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, ranger, yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, or, you know, we're just out and around for -- as park rangers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Yeah, by the '80's, though, the administration was in Skagway.

SCOTT HOME: All right here.

KAREN BREWSTER: At -- at -- it was now officially Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

SCOTT HOME: Right. Ever since '77, it was official, right here, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:05:46]Ok, so they rotated you in and off the trail with work in town?

SCOTT HOME: With a rota -- No, it was all here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, in Dyea.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, it was all in Dyea, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, we went into town every so often for some project or other, but it was almost all right here. It was supposed to be. And Jay would hire people who were supposed to stay up 'til ten o'clock at night, and they'd take off at about eight or whatever. And he never bothered to check on them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because the ranger station, they're supposed to stay open?

SCOTT HOME: Yep, until ten, for emergencies.

KAREN BREWSTER: For emergencies.

SCOTT HOME: Especially when the campground's full in the summer, but.

[01:06:18]KAREN BREWSTER: Oh yeah, by that point, this Park Service campground in Dyea was established?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. That's from '86 on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, it was already the base of the Dyea operations. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So how did that compare to in the '70's?

SCOTT HOME: Well, it was no comparison, except you were up there by yourself. The advantage was, men and women could alternate. You didn't have to worry about having a team of two.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: So that opened it up to a lot more people. And it seemed to me like they got some pretty good people when I -- occasionally, when I met them. But then again, they'd hire Slapstick, the likes of him, and only because he wrote a suicide note did they not put him on as permanent seasonal. He just wrote a letter complaining that he just wasn't being treated nicely at all by everybody. And that was the same super -- the same chief ranger who was going to give him this life time sinecure, so. Up 'til Jerry Watson. Jerry was a medic in Vietnam.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Knew the difference between real crazy and fake crazy. He used to tell me I was exaggerating, saying that Slapstick was truly psychotic, was truly over the line. Right up to the day that he killed himself. After that, Jerry never said another thing about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, he -- his suicide note was --

SCOTT HOME: No, I mean, he killed himself in his job. He could've had a job for the rest of --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

SCOTT HOME: -- his life doing absolutely nothing, staring into space.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And he writes this nasty letter to the boss who would've given it to him. So then, when he came back next spring, begging for his job back, the boss had already hired somebody else, even though he was -- this guy didn't do anything. He didn't get out -- He didn't go the trail. He didn't haul water. He didn't do anything. And Jay was determined that he was going to be the face of Gla -- of Klondike Gold Rush for the rest of --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, as you say, there's always somebody. And there is this stereotype notion by many people that government employees get paid to do nothing.

SCOTT HOME: That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And they're --

SCOTT HOME: And he certainly lived up to it.

KAREN BREWSTER: And there are some people who live up to it, and then there's other people who are very hard workers and enjoy their jobs, and --

SCOTT HOME: Well, I always figured, I earned the money I was paid, because I did the job I was paid for. And so I don't have regrets like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

[01:08:31]SCOTT HOME: But back by '77, when they had both of them hanging around in town. Everybody back then -- the train ran year-round. Everybody -- the men all worked on the railroad. The woman all ran the retail shops up and down Broadway. So the men are picking up the hikers in Bennett and hearing from them what a great crew the Canadian wardens are, and how they never even saw anybody on the American side.

They'd come home and tell their wives that. Their wives are seeing two rangers right out front of their windows all day every day, doing nothing. You know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And that's pretty much, I think, where the reputation just hit bottom for --

KAREN BREWSTER: Between the Park Service and the community?

SCOTT HOME: And the community, yeah. And it wasn't doing all that well up until then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And the fact that I was up at Sheep Camp and actually doing the job, nobody in town even knew that. Nobody ever saw me or heard anything about it, so. Why Bob was so determined to run it down? But that's happened. It's ancient history.

[01:09:23]KAREN BREWSTER: So you've been around Dyea and Skagway long enough to have a sense of how things have changed with the park and the community. What are your observations on that?

SCOTT HOME: Well, back when I first started moving out here, Dyea was a little community of artists and writers and ivory carvers and all that.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was 1984 you said you had a -- your place?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah. Well, actually, from '73 on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: But '84 when I got my place. Yeah, right. And as they said, back then, it was a community, sort of. But it was campers or transients, and now it's all just a bedroom suburb of Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Everybody in Dyea works in Skagway, and I guess I can't complain 'cause I did myself for the years I worked there at the hotel or at the visitor center, so.

[01:10:12]KAREN BREWSTER: And what about the feelings that people might have about the park, the relationship between the park and the community?

SCOTT HOME: I wish we had the park rangers doing law enforcement out here because our local police have refused to take any action on serious legal offenses, and actually sided with lawbreakers. So one of the things I keep trying to push, trying to get an investigation into this police force here with the troopers and the FBI. And one thing I want to push is, we've got competent law enforcement people out here, and we don't have any law enforcement because our police are so incompetent, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I mean, rangers are law enforcement.

SCOTT HOME: They are law officers. They are qualified law officers. The one they had here used to be a policeman in Barrow, for pete's sake.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: I lived in Barrow for years. I know exactly what that means. That's the man you need to have.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So I assumed they had authority over the campground and on the trail and --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. But not -- but not outside the park, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

SCOTT HOME: Even though they do on the trail -- I had a park ranger follow me all the way into town one time. A girl. To wait 'til I pulled over to get out and tell me I had a taillight out. Now that's the way it oughta be.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: You know, it's just -- and everything they've done has been in accordance with the law, and they haven't done anything that's --

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

SCOTT HOME: The only thing they've done to piss people off is say you can't hunt here in this little area. And these people already know that, so they're not really pissed off at that, so.

[01:11:36]KAREN BREWSTER: So, you know, you said in the '70's, the relationship between the Park Service and the community was not so good.

SCOTT HOME: Well, it wasn't good because there wasn't any going relationship. I wasn't in the town very much.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And the people who were in town weren't exactly making a good impression. Especially Mortvedt, who was such an idiot.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So you think that's changed now?

SCOTT HOME: Oh yeah, drastically. When the railroad closed down, the Park Service kept going.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Everybody working for the Park Service kept on working, and uh, that changed everything because people then started realizing -- and all the veterans who started working for the Park Service.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

SCOTT HOME: They realized they've got that extra preference. So from that time on, no, the Park Service definitely has been a savior of the community.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So even though you had a negative experience with them?

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. I guess all I can say is, we just didn't work out together, and I regret that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But what can I say?

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and I think it --

SCOTT HOME: I did everything that they asked me to do, and they expected me to do, and then he tells me that it doesn't make any difference that I did, and that's not exactly --

KAREN BREWSTER: No. That doesn't feel --

SCOTT HOME: Not exactly encouraging to --

KAREN BREWSTER: Doesn't feel very good. [01:12:48]Um, you mentioned that in the '80's, there were women rangers.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So I'm wondering, in the '70's, there weren't?

SCOTT HOME: There were two in '75 were both women.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: But then after that, it had to be either two women or two men, whereas once you got down to where it was one at a time, then you could alternate the women and the men.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. They didn't have men and women up there together?

SCOTT HOME: No, they didn't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: I applied for Misty Fjords Monument down around Ketchikan.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Several years, 'cause that's a canoeing/kayaking park, and the only person I ever heard who actually saw any of the people on business down there said, there was a guy and a woman on one team, and they obviously hated each other, so. (cough)

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, but two --

SCOTT HOME: I just think the Park Service does not -- is not the place for people who are really out there into it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, I was going to say, two men rangers or two female rangers -

SCOTT HOME: Just as likely.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- could hate each other, too.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, just as likely. Good God, up at Eielson Visitor Center in McKinley, the first summer I was there, they said the two guys, they'll have that -- "They'll have that visitor center living quarters marked off in blood."

[01:14:01]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah. That's what I was wondering. You know, I mean, you have expressed it, that being isolated up at someplace like Sheep Camp, if you didn't get along with the person you were -- it would be tough.

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. What the hell? What's the point?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: And why hire somebody to go up there when they don't even give a hoot? When it doesn't matter to 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So therefore, it's better to be by yourself.

SCOTT HOME: Much. Much.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: The old story was, way back when, there had to be two of them -- back before the ass flap or radios, there had to be two of us to go out there for safety reasons.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: I spent more of my time trying to keep myself alive against the idiots they sent me out there with. When I've been by myself, I've never had a problem anywhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right.

SCOTT HOME: Never lured in a bear. Never had a, you know -- if I've gone through the ice, I've been able to take care of myself. So actually sending people out, the idiots that they pick to go out with are actually your survival test. If you can survive them, you're --

[01:14:53]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and I'm surprised that there were female rangers as early as 1975. That seems early. Maybe not?

SCOTT HOME: No. There were women rangers in the '50's when I was growing up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Not a whole -- for God's sake, they had to wear skirts back then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: They had to wear these big, heavy skirts and do talks and all that. But no, there were women rangers, just not a lot of them, and not usually in the backcountry.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: But they made these big, you know, pants/skirts for women who did ride back there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: It wasn't that there weren't any, it's just -- most of the ones I knew, in fact, were pretty old by the time I was in the late '50's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

SCOTT HOME: It was -- a lot of them were -- the women rangers were coming up for retirement.

[01:15:30]KAREN BREWSTER: But in terms of rangers on the Chilkoot, by the '80's, was there a change in numbers of males to females compared to the '70's?

SCOTT HOME: Well, by '75 is when the first two women were hired.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So from then on, it was either two males or two females.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But there were always women on the crew by that point?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, that surprises to me, because every field crew I was on after that, BLM or Forest Service or whatever, there were always women on the trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: There were always women out there together, I mean.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: You get too modest about, you know, fording the -- taking your clothes off to ford the water, you should get another line of work.

[01:16:07]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and then by the '80's when you were doing it, there was a trail crew.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right? So can you talk about the relationship between the rangers and the trail crew?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, I had a great time. I worked with the trail crew all the time. We were in communication all the time. Uh, Jay Cable and one of his sidekicks made a point out of making argument with them all the time, but we had an avalanche one winter, and the trail crew had to clean up the trail where it was. And I helped 'em out because might as well, it was my job every day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And Jerry (Watson) says, "I'm going to write a memo, you know, thanking you for your work." I said, "Good God, don't do that, you'll really get me in trouble." So he didn't. But yeah, we got along fine with them, but officially, there were differences which didn't amount to a hill of beans.

KAREN BREWSTER: When was that avalanche?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, it must've been '87-'88. '88, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And where was it?

SCOTT HOME: It was just above Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: It was a distance up, uh -- it wiped out where the old trail used to be. I used to come back the old trail that branched out eastward and came back around there, but it knocked out so many trees that I couldn't get through there anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But it knocked 'em across the path. We just cut those and cleared those.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it was like a late spring avalanche?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, when you opened the trail up, it was there?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, right.

[01:17:23]KAREN BREWSTER: So what was the season for opening the trail and -- ?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, we were up there in May. We got going in May.

KAREN BREWSTER: So May --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, outta there by Labor Day, or -- ?

SCOTT HOME: Oh no. We're -- 'Til about the second or third week in September.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: We didn't start cleaning out until there was -- until there was frost on the ferns, and there was, you know -- It was getting to be late in the season. It was beautiful, always white. The last walk-out was always so beautiful because the leaves had started to turn, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And there was rime on the ferns and all that.

[01:17:54]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, we were thinking yesterday when we were sitting at Bennett waiting for the train and looking at the hillsides -- Or actually, you know, hiking out, that those -- the fall colors on the tundra and the trees, it must be beautiful to hike up in that high country in the fall.

SCOTT HOME: It is. McKinley turns color in August.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: The entire landscape turns color.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So I'm assuming the Canadian side must be like that.

SCOTT HOME: It is.

KAREN BREWSTER: It must be gorgeous.

SCOTT HOME: It is. Um-hm. And we get a lot of the golden, you know. We get a lot of the --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: -- cottonwood and the aspen going gold around here, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [01:18:26]Uh, you mentioned bears, so, of course, I have to ask about bears, since Chilkoot's all bear country.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, well. We only had bears -- trouble because the rangers insisted on doing things that would guarantee luring them in. When I was by my -- I've never had a trouble with bear in my life anywhere, polar or grizzly or black.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Dorkface, of course, when I told him to get rid of that bacon grease, he was too lazy to do anything, so he came back and found out a bear had taken over. He wound up having to shoot both of them, both the mother and her cub, which was a complete waste just because he's too stupid. Then Dorkface wouldn't burn his garbage when he took off one time, when he knew there was a bear -- or Slapstick, when he knew there was a bear around, and I had to take care of that one. And he never got written up on that because the boss -- he was the one the boss was going to pick.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So there again, not for me because we never had a problem when we had people who knew what they were doing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:19:24]And what about interactions with bears and hikers?

Were there ever problems 'cause --

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- of poor camping habits and things?

SCOTT HOME: Well, there were poor camping habits, but no, we -- that's what we tried to keep cleaned up all the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: That's what we were doing around the campground, making damn sure there wasn't anything --

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: -- left around. When they had bear problems, it's because of one of these other people they hired who wasn't doing anything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Who just sat around all the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. 'Cause --

SCOTT HOME: But I can't say we had lots of bear problems. The simple fact of there being a lot of people drives most bears off.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So when we got one, it was a three-year-old out on his or her own right away. And all you have to do is manage properly, but they wouldn't do it, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, because now there's so much educational material and signage and training. And you've got to watch a video about bear activity.

SCOTT HOME: I've had one time in my life that a bear didn't run when I yelled. And that wasn't too long ago. It was just two or three years ago. My nagoonberry patch over on the old trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And there was a three-year-old, probably female, grizzly. And I have a great operatic repertoire that's got rid of every bear I ever ran into in my life. And this one just stood there and looked at me. She'd already got my nagoonberries. I don't know what she thought I was -- well there, I wound up backing off her. Otherwise, I've yelled at them every time, and they go.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: So I don't have to worry. That's my whole lifetime experience, so.

[01:20:48]KAREN BREWSTER: But were -- were -- did you see a lot of them? Were they a lot around?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. They're always a lot around, especially when the fish run on the lower part of the river. Yeah, you see grizzlies every time you go through there when the -- when the fish are running. But they try to stay out of sight. They try to stay off the human trails.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I was wondering if now, with the increased hiker activity on the trail, if that's reduced the bear sighting numbers?

SCOTT HOME: Probably. Probably grizzlies for sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. I once sat down for a breather on the Chilkoot, and there was a grizzly in the slough over here, and he or she went all the way around behind me and across the trail and up this way just to get to this part of the slough.

KAREN BREWSTER: To avoid you?

SCOTT HOME: To avoid, like, walking right in front of me. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Yeah. 'Cause it could go either way. More hikers, meaning more bad people behavior attracting bears.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or more hikers, meaning bears stay away. I was wondering if you had observed one way -- ?

SCOTT HOME: That's hard to say, because you're getting a different population of bears anymore. You're getting -- cubs that grow up knowing people are around are always going to be more aggressive.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: Than the cubs that are a complete stranger to. We had a sow out here for years, raised litter after litter of two cubs. Saw to it they never got into the garbage, they never got into the compost, they stayed away from everybody. Hard working mom and all that. And we never had to worry about them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: So we know that any bear that gets shot was a newcomer because we know it can be -- it can happen. There's plenty of intelligent bears around.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I think they're all pretty intelligent.

SCOTT HOME: Well.

KAREN BREWSTER: My sense.

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah.

[01:22:25]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so, after '80 -- you said '86 to --

SCOTT HOME: '89, I was still working here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nine.

SCOTT HOME: Then -- then came the Valdez spill, and I got hired in up at Anchorage to -- typical government efficiency.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: I'm the one who can run around in a boat and who's used to remote sites, so they give me a map, street map of Anchorage, and tell me to drive around Anchorage and check out all these cases that are falling vacant because of the city people all going out and running around. Where everybody, I understood, laughed at 'em right and left.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So I spent the next winter, driving around Anchorage with a road map, trying to find -- well, the one thing that turned out, the virtue of this. I didn't know Anchorage. I didn't know who was feuding with who, and who had a property fight with who, and who was filing suit against that. So all I had to do was go out there and get the facts. So that was the virtue from the -- from DEC (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation). But then --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's when you were working for DEC?

SCOTT HOME: DEC. Yeah, the state DEC.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: So then, they hired me on full time up in the Fairbanks office because I'd already got all that experience over in the Arctic, and they had the big hiring burst right after the Valdez spill, and I got in on that, so. And I worked four years for DEC in Fairbanks, and then traveled all over the North Slope for that.

[01:23:43]KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok, so that was your -- so that was 'til what, '93?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then what?

SCOTT HOME: Well, then what was, I'd been on my butt for four years, and I had hemorrhoids and a pot belly and a big pile of money. So I got off my butt and got on my feet, lost my hemorrhoids, lost my pot belly, and still had all that money, so I traveled with it. I finally did the traveling I wanted to do in South America and the South Pacific, and made it to Scotland, made it to Romania.

KAREN BREWSTER: Awesome.

SCOTT HOME: You know. Yeah.

(knocking on door)

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so, then when did you come back --

(break)

[01:24:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Um. Let me see now, so um, when did you come back to live in Dyea --

SCOTT HOME: Well, I was --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- permanently?

SCOTT HOME: I had that permanent house from '84.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: But I haven't been out to another job since '96.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: So then I got a job with the city visitor center, and that lasted for a while.

KAREN BREWSTER: But again, that would be a summer -- ?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Just a summer seasonal and I was living here all winter long.

KAREN BREWSTER: So from '93 to '90 -- so did you spend those three years traveling?

SCOTT HOME: Eh, most of it. '94. '95, no, I was back here. '95 is when I worked for the park -  
- for the Forest Service.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's right. Right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. But yeah, most of '94. I did six months in the Andes in South America, stitching up the -- I'd already been down as far as Lake Titicaca overland, and I did the whole trek --

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

SCOTT HOME: -- from the tip of Point Barrow down to eighty miles north of the Antarctic Circle on surface.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nice.

SCOTT HOME: Then, as I said, spent time in Easter Island, spent time in Moorea Island, spent time in New Zealand.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

SCOTT HOME: And, yeah.

[01:25:25]KAREN BREWSTER: So are there things you want to tell me about Dyea as a community and the history here and some of the people, and -- that we make sure that gets documented? That the park might not have that history.

SCOTT HOME: I'm still trying to work on that history of the settlement out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: There's those four people, and I need to get that all written down. I need to get out there with a map.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Because when I first settled there, that was on the site of one of those houses. And I know where all the cisterns are because I almost fell into a couple of them. And that needs to be matched up with the people who lived out there. And that's the main thing. Then, as far as Emil goes, I wrote up a piece that you could get from Kathy (Hosford) here, about the history of bars in Dyea, and namely how there was no licenses, from 1900 until 19 -- until 2017. (cough) That's all -- all stuff could be more detailed, but I'm better off writing stuff out, like one-page summaries and then -- because it gives me a chance to think things over.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Come up with smart-ass phrases.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And stuff like that.

[01:26:30]KAREN BREWSTER: But so, there were -- when Dyea was the big gold rush community --

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- you know, there were hotels -- and so, you -- there were bars.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: But they were unlicensed?

SCOTT HOME: Thirty-six of them, but there were no licenses. No, there was -- Prohibition was legal in Alaska back then. None of them were legal. You couldn't get a license.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. And so, when did it start that they got licensed?

SCOTT HOME: 1912 when the Territorial Act was created. Since they were all selling it anyway, what the hell, you might as well get some tax out of it. Just like the marijuana population, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: People are going to buy it anyway, you might as well get some tax money out of it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But now, Chilkoot Outpost is the only bar out here?

SCOTT HOME: That's the only bar that's been here in 117 -- now 119 years, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And --

SCOTT HOME: And as I say, "First one ever had a license." And as Kathy says, "First one ever had a flush toilet." The last hotel and bar in Dyea closed down in 1900.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Fairly early in the year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[01:27:35]SCOTT HOME: And then, we talked about old Emil who lived in the Quonset hut (Lee Gault cabin), out there on Goldie and Duncan's property. He was always having

booze around and being a regular consumer of such and all that. And PJ, who lived right here on this spot, and had plenty of booze around all the time and was a considerable consumer of such. I wrote all that up just for humor.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So who's Emil?

SCOTT HOME: Emil Hanousek. He was a guy who lived in Dyea back in -- when I first got here to set up the Chilkoot, he lived there in the 1960's. He'd lived there for twenty years.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what was he like?

SCOTT HOME: A drunk. Genial old drunk.

KAREN BREWSTER: And by the 1960's, living out here, he probably just lived here. He wasn't --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. He doesn't have anything. I don't know, the family supported him, I guess. Eddie Hanousek's family.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: He was the uncle. I know Carl Fraser (sp?), the cop, brought him a dog, 'cause I was out there when he gave him the pup to take care of. Emil's Quonset was spotless. As a housekeeper -- the thing that griped him the most about being a host was that he had to wash dishes afterward. Because his -- his house was always spotless. He had everything organized and clean.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what had he done out here before?

SCOTT HOME: He worked for the railroad for years, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So he kind of retired out here?

SCOTT HOME: I guess that's it. I think it was a little earlier than standard retirement, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, you can't see on the tape, I did retirement in quotation -- air quotes. Um --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[01:29:07]KAREN BREWSTER: But is that Quonset hut still around?

SCOTT HOME: No. The Park Service burned it down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: That had the only other drinking water in Dyea, and I told 'em, for God's sake, don't pull up that pump, that well. And they did, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Why?

SCOTT HOME: Make damn sure people didn't get safe drinking water, I suppose.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But when, uh, Goldie owned the property, and she said that nobody -- they evaluated it at five thousand dollars, she said nobody ever offered her more than five thousand for it. Well, I know somebody who went straight to her and offered her more than that, but she said she couldn't find the title. So she wound up just letting the Park Service take it. Five acres, which, you know --

KAREN BREWSTER: Is a lot.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. And then they burned down the Quonset, and -- well, first of all, they let it stand open, so it got vandalized.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And then they burned it down, and then they pulled up the pump for the well water.

KAREN BREWSTER: So when did Emil either die or leave Dyea?

SCOTT HOME: Well, I met him, '67. Let's see, '70 -- no, I met him in '72. So he was gone by '76.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Somewhere in there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[01:30:15]KAREN BREWSTER: And then, the property where you live --

SCOTT HOME: That was --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- somebody else lived there before you?

SCOTT HOME: Al Swingle (sp?). Or no, Al Huntley, sorry. I messed -- mixed up my Als. Al Huntley was an electrician, and he and his wife had built a house there, and it had burned, and they had built another one. And that's why he couldn't apply for permission just to stay put because, technically, he had moved the house. So he built onto his woodshed, and that's the house he gave me to live in because he's fighting the Park Service for the title. And he needs somebody living in there all the time. So he -- I lived in there for him on his behalf until '88. Then he came around and tell me, (cough), I'm giving up. Says, "The Park Service, I've been fighting 'em for years." I said, "Well, I knew you were. 'Cause I -- I worked for the Park Service. I know how far you'd get." I said, "But I have also scoped out the exact route I can take to move this house out onto private property. I figured this from the beginning. So if you will let me do that, I'll pay for it. Just let me go on living here for another five years or seven years." He says, "You want to move it, you got it." And he went down to city hall and changed the title over in my name. Didn't even charge me one dollar. Got stuck for a bunch of past taxes, but it doesn't amount to anything, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Good. So you've had that since '88?

SCOTT HOME: Since -- yeah, he gave the title to me in '88, and I'd been living there since '84.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[01:31:44]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, I was just thinking -- I'm jumping around a little bit, back to the trail.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause I -- I think we didn't follow through on this discussion of the trail crew.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: And um, and I -- I don't know if I asked this question to Watson or not, but on the work that happens on the trail, the maintenance and the stuff that crew does, does the crew and the crew foreman decide, oh, we need to fix that bridge or we need to improve this part of the trail, or is there somebody --

SCOTT HOME: No. The crew --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- in town overseeing it all.

SCOTT HOME: Well, the maintenance supervisor, but he'll -- John Warder was a very good supervisor, and he knew Jerry and the crew.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And if they said anything, yeah, he agreed with it.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause that's what we're trying to decide is who -- who determines what work's gonna be done each season?

SCOTT HOME: The maintenance supervisor, first of all, and he's in town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And then, the trail crew gets their -- there's so many overall orders, and then they do whatever emergency work comes up.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the super -- the maintenance supervisor --

SCOTT HOME: (cough)

KAREN BREWSTER: -- gives them the orders?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then the foreman carries them out?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But if the foreman -- 'cause the maintenance supervisor's not out there on the trail?

SCOTT HOME: No, he's in Skagway. But they're in touch.

KAREN BREWSTER: So but -- right.

SCOTT HOME: By radio all day.

KAREN BREWSTER: But is the supervisor -- when the crew finishes for a year, do they kinda have a list of what needs to happen next year?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah, we all do that. I mean, the ranger station does it, too, you know, for --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[01:33:16]KAREN BREWSTER: Because uh, having now hiked the trail --

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- that trail crew did some amazing projects in those years.

SCOTT HOME: They've done some amazing work. They've done some spectacular work, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And I don't know if it was all the years that Watson was involved, or there're other good crews?

SCOTT HOME: Well, there have probably been more good crews, 'cause they never tried to hire the losers on the trail crew.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: They got them a couple of times, but it's -- you know, like they didn't intend it that way, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I mean, those suspension bridges at Canyon City are --

SCOTT HOME: Spectacular.

KAREN BREWSTER: Phenomenal.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, that --

SCOTT HOME: Well, one of those was already there. The one in Canyon City was already there when I first started working.

KAREN BREWSTER: The one to the island?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: To the old Canyon City site?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. To the old Canyon City.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, it was already there. State parks had put that in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: But since then, the park -- national parks have put in the fancier one. That's what Jerry got his head injury out of.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I -- I didn't know which bridge it was.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like, I couldn't remember. He obviously told me, but it was on the one that goes over that one creek?

SCOTT HOME: Yep.

KAREN BREWSTER: Which probably has a name that I don't know.

SCOTT HOME: Canyon City, it's, uh, just the Canyon City bridge.

[01:34:23]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But -- but the one that goes over to the old Canyon City site.

SCOTT HOME: That's the one.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's the state one?

SCOTT HOME: The state one had one there first.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, and then they built a new one?

SCOTT HOME: The Park Service built another one, yeah. That was the one Jerry got hurt on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Ok. Because there's another one --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- along the main trail a little bit farther.

SCOTT HOME: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Across some creek. Which is a really spectacular -- it's a long -- it seems to me, a longer span.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or seems newer or something.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Well, it may be. It may be something newer than the last time I was up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: So in the '70's, there was just the one suspension bridge?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah.

[01:35:10]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And I mean, I just can't imagine, whether it was the suspension bridge or some of those wooden bridges or the stone work --

SCOTT HOME: A lot of the wooden bridges got washed out. That's why they had to replace them with suspension bridges.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did they carry in all their supplies, or they -- ?

SCOTT HOME: No, the trail crew generally tends to haul their chainsaws and their -- their work kits, yeah. If there's a lot of wood or a lot of building material you need, then they'd get a helicopter lift, but --

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So the mat -- building material is often helicoptered in at the beginning of the season? So you plan it out --

SCOTT HOME: Whenever they need it. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was thinking, too, you plan it out ahead of time, and you have your supply list.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. But the main thing is, when you get these emergencies like bridges washing out, you need an emergency run up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And that's -- that's where a good deal of the budget goes to.

[01:36:07]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And as a ranger, when you were out there, going up and down different part of the trail --

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- were there things you would see, to say, "Hey, this has to get fixed?"

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. There's a lot of wear on the trail itself that we tried to correct by sending people up through new, more stable areas, and God, did the hikers resent that. They wanted to be able to chuck -- chew down -- climb up the river bank, so they'd chew it down, just really resistant. I even put rock barrier one time, trying to keep -- somebody kicked that out of the way. So they'd be able to keep on degrading the trail instead of just barging in. So yeah, you get that all the time. We did that all summer long.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I know the first part of the trail here leaving Dyea that goes up the side of the mountain --

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- is not the quote/unquote "original" historic trail.

SCOTT HOME: No. When I first started out here, there was still a cable car in the gravel of the river. That was how people used to cable -- cut out St. Lee Hill.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

SCOTT HOME: And hit the trail from below. But we couldn't even hang onto the cables by that time. It was so rusty, and it was so deep ground, and we wouldn't have risked it trying to get across. We were going to, and we didn't do it.

KAREN BREWSTER: So this first part's called St. Lee Hill?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[01:37:26]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And so, is that -- in '73, did you guys scout out that trail? Or when did that part get put in?

SCOTT HOME: Starting in '73, yeah, we scouted out the old trail. '74, we scouted out the old Sheep Camp trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And then, there were these other old trails that were actually not the historical trail. Up and above Sheep Camp, and I used to take that one, the one that went right through Sheep Camp Valley, and then they discovered a lot down here. We didn't do this lower stretch of the park so much.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: But they discovered lots of alternate trails down here since --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah. I was wondering when they -- if this St. Lee Hill right here out of Dyea is not the original historic trail.

SCOTT HOME: No. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: When that got put in and why?

SCOTT HOME: I can't tell you when the state's cable car was put in 'cause it was already out of commission. I don't think the state -- if the state did that, it'd have been before it was even a state park.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: 'Cause it was really deeply buried. And only the middle-aged people that could date back to the '50's or '40's ever said they'd ever actually used the cable car.

[01:38:31]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So when you hiked it in '73, did you go up over St. Lee Hill?

SCOTT HOME: Every time, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So it was already being used by that point.

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. Every time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, nobody was crossing the river there by then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So some -- I don't know -- well, we don't know how it got started then.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: As you say, maybe when the state crew was --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, it was already being used by the time the state crew started running over there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Uh, ok. [01:39:04]Um, so anyway, I -- I digressed us from Dyea community stuff.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: If there was anything else --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, not particularly. It's just, yeah, there's been a whole difference in relationships, and people are just here when they're not working, and the people that used to be out here painting and carving and writing and all that stuff, but -- It's just more like a business community instead of -- but we all get along pretty well. The real troublemakers are not here anymore, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that's good. Yeah, 'cause I know that it's an important thing that you wanted to probably tell me about.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

[01:39:40]KAREN BREWSTER: Was -- um, when Doug came and told you that I was working on this, were there things that came to your mind that you wanted to make sure got told?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, pretty much what I've said.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: You know, the fact that, yeah, I was all for the job, and so were other people, and they didn't want any of those people around. And everything's gone to crap since.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And you weren't considered a local hire at any point?

SCOTT HOME: Well, you could say I was considered a local hire, being in Glacier Bay and that's where the hire was from.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Since I was living there the rest of the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: But in the '80's when Jay hired you, you wouldn't --

SCOTT HOME: No, I wasn't -- well, yeah. Because I was local hire.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: But he also hired Greg. Slapstick.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Who lived in Whitehorse, and said that was local hire, which, of course, he'd never got away with, but --

[01:40:25]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. What about other people that you worked with, either in the '70's or the '80's, that you want to talk about?

SCOTT HOME: Well, I didn't stay in touch with enough of them. Chuck Nelson from the first summer --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: -- wrote me a letter sometime in the '80's, said he'd worked for the Forest Service. He'd given up on the Park Service. But I never saw him again. He was in Juneau, but the next time I was in Juneau, he wasn't there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: I never saw him again.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, Doug went on to work for the state.

SCOTT HOME: He went on eventually to work for state parks. Doug and Phil and I, after that fall of '76, they came up after their summer together, and they found that if I'd spend two and a half months in the spring out on the Arctic ice with a whole ice camp and six months running all over the North Slope.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: My own travel vouchers. That's the first time they got personal introduction to the fact, there really are a lot of good jobs out here you're not going to get that crap from. So we crossed paths with each other for the next several years, just going to different jobs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Different places. And then, when we settled down, we all kind of settled down to state agencies. Doug settled down to state parks, went into natural resources. Phil went into fish and game, and I spent years in DEC, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So you all did end up having successful careers outside of the Park Service?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. We're happy. We're all happy about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah.

SCOTT HOME: I keep thinking, if I'd wound up somewhere in the East like Richey did, that I don't think my life would've been anything like it's been.

[01:41:47]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you mentioned Jay Cable. What was he like?

SCOTT HOME: An asshole. As everybody said, "Jay Cable wouldn't hire anybody smarter than he was." Which really trimmed down the list.

KAREN BREWSTER: What -- ok. What about superintendents? 'Cause in -- Well, you mentioned the Glacier Bay one. But in the '80's, who was --

SCOTT HOME: That was Clay Alderson.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. That was Dick Simm(s) to start with. And then, Clay Alderson. And I saw practically nothing of either one of them. Or never heard anything either one of them ever did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well being out here --

SCOTT HOME: I slipped off the road one time in one of my little light pick-up junkers, and Simm and Jay Cable stopped to see if they could help me. I said, "All you have to do is give me a push, I'll be on the road." He's got this lollipop in his mouth, "Well, we can't push you doing that." So I ran over, and I just pushed it myself. Slipped right on back on the road.

KAREN BREWSTER: So --

SCOTT HOME: My neighbor Denise who's a little woman could push it, you know, so.

[01:42:42]KAREN BREWSTER: But so, when you were -- so in the '80's, when you were a trail ranger out here and administration was in Skagway.

SCOTT HOME: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: You still had fairly limited interaction with --

SCOTT HOME: Yeah, because by that time, we had the ass flappers. We had the hip radios. When I first set up here, we only had the one radio at Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: It was the one accordion-type, you know, strung up on the trees. So once we had the ass flappers, they could talk to us anytime, anywhere, and yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, so you didn't have to go into the office?

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, you didn't interact with the administrative staff?

SCOTT HOME: Just when I was called to, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So were you called to?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah, for little things. Various and sundry things. He called me into town one time to tell me to put -- change the license plate on a park vehicle. He couldn't manage to do that by himself. He once ran a fire extinguisher class. He spent an entire hour telling people how to extinguish a fire with the fire extinguishers, and, you know, well, I had to sit there.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you wanted to be out hiking?

SCOTT HOME: You know, watching everybody else glance back and forth, like.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I appreciate your time today.

SCOTT HOME: Well, it's been enjoyable.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Is there anything else that, um --

SCOTT HOME: Oh, dozens of things, but, you know, how these things go, it'll come to me later on, but yeah.

[01:43:57]KAREN BREWSTER: Oh yeah. Anything, um, that really stands out in your mind as particularly memorable in a good way about your years working -- ?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. I enjoyed every minute of dealing with the hikers. There were people from all over the world.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: There were -- one time, up on the summit, I from parks, the US Parks, there was the Canadian warden, Candy Norris, Frank's wife.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: And a warden from New Zealand from the Milford Sound Track (Milford Track). We all three had the best jobs on earth, and the whole conversation that whole afternoon was how screwed up everything is in headquarters, how they don't understand anything, how much trouble we all have. We're all out there, we don't have any trouble. The only thing we could think of to talk about when we get together is how screwed up this system we work for is.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: And if that were true, we'd be pretty stupid, so.

[01:44:48]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, the other thing is, your years both on the trail and in this area, Dyea, things you've noticed changing environmentally?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, everything's changed environmentally. The flowers -- this used to be the valley full of flowers, used to be known for it all over. People would come and ask about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Now it's just full of dandelions. Uh, it had a lot of hares around. They seem not to be here anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: Well, we've got deer that are surviving so far.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

SCOTT HOME: So, yeah, there are big environmental changes, but as far as this person's concerned, not for the best. I mean, things are not improving any.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what about up on the trail corridor, up in --

SCOTT HOME: Well, there've been the same kinds of basic changes. I mean, there are changes in plant frequencies and all that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

SCOTT HOME: But, uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: And changes in the --

SCOTT HOME: And then, changes in the impact that means that there are fewer mammals and fewer birds you're going to see on the trail, so.

[01:45:41]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So do you think the animal populations have changed?

SCOTT HOME: Dropped off.

KAREN BREWSTER: They've dropped? Ok.

SCOTT HOME: Toad populations. We used to have toads crawling all over the ground out there. We don't have any anymore, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: We saw one.

SCOTT HOME: One toad. Yeah. Used to be you couldn't go out for a walk, you would have to avoid stepping on 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Um, ok. And um, glaciers, of course is the obvious question.

SCOTT HOME: Oh, yeah. River banks, river is washing out. The river bank has been degraded at an enormous rate. Trees are washing down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wasn't there -- one year there was a big flood here?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Yeah, that was -- there was a break in an ice dam.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SCOTT HOME: Up the -- up West Creek. That's the one that all sent us shellacking for the morning.

KAREN BREWSTER: What year was that?

SCOTT HOME: Oh, I'd have to try to remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I -- but --

SCOTT HOME: They can tell you in town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did that affect you?

SCOTT HOME: Well, yeah. I just dug a new outhouse pit, and it filled it up with silt that I had trouble digging back out, but as far as damage went to my property, other than -- It wasn't -- I didn't get enough water. There was a big excavation from a building basement, not very far away, and that filled up with water, and that kept my house from getting impacted, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: But yeah, it impacted -- we all got relief checks from the Eagles for having all the damage we did. It wasn't really a whole lot.

[01:47:07]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and then since then, has the whole West Creek channel changed?

SCOTT HOME: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

SCOTT HOME: No. It was -- it was bermed back in after that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: So all that work was out there to determine it wouldn't be flooding this side again, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it's --

SCOTT HOME: There was another one coming down from the Norse River up the Chilkoot Trail, one of these fine days, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Mm.

SCOTT HOME: That's the one, the other one we have to worry about.

KAREN BREWSTER: And the -- but so the big channel shifts are in the Taiya River?

SCOTT HOME: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

SCOTT HOME: And it does that all the time. It goes back and forth, you know, historically, all the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So that -- that's not really a change from the --

SCOTT HOME: No. No, back in the '80's when we used to sauna at John and Lorna's (McDermott), we used to have to go down, bare-assed, and run 125 feet, even to find enough water to get down into. Not enough to sink in, just enough -- find enough water to get cool. And then run 125 feet back. And then, since then, the river's come back out and cut that bank that we were running down for so long.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

SCOTT HOME: So, yeah.

[01:48:09]KAREN BREWSTER: All right. Well, I will let you get -- let you go. I feel like you're ready to be done. But I just want to make sure we got everything.

SCOTT HOME: Sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: That you had in mind.

SCOTT HOME: Sure, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that your writing career gets mentioned.

SCOTT HOME: Yeah. Oh, good.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause I know that's important to you.

SCOTT HOME: Good. It's the whole reason for my whole life, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, great. Well, thank you so much for your time.

SCOTT HOME: Well. Sure. No problem.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.