

RECORDED INTERVIEW OF JEREMY "JERRY" WATSON

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER

IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

APRIL 29, 2019

ORAL HISTORY 2017-01-96

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

[00:00:00]KAREN BREWSTER: I'm just gonna get us going here. Today is April 29, 2019.

This is Karen Brewster, here with --

JEREMY WATSON: Jeremy Watson.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, you go by Watson most of the time?

JEREMY WATSON: I do.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And this is for the Klondike Oral -- Klondike National --

JEREMY WATSON: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

KAREN BREWSTER: Gold Rush National Historical Park. You see, I'm tired, too. Oral

History Project. [00:00:25]So, um, when did you first start working up there?

JEREMY WATSON: 1980.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what did you do before that?

JEREMY WATSON: I was a work leader, um, trails at Glacier National Park. From '76 to '80.

Before that, I was in Sitka National Historical Park.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what did you do in those other places?

JEREMY WATSON: Uh, I built the trails in Sitka at the cultural center there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Are you familiar with it?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep.

JEREMY WATSON: And before that, I was at Rocky Mountain National Park when I was -- I was an undergrad down in Boul -- University of Colorado. And I worked there for two years, and then I went to Alaska in '75, and then I went to Glacier in '76. And then I went back to Skagway in 1980. They asked me to come up there to rehabilitate the old Chilkoot Trail.

[00:01:22]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And where are you from originally?

JEREMY WATSON: Chicago.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what got you into doing trail work?

JEREMY WATSON: Well, I went -- I was a -- I'm a Vietnam combat veteran. I was a Navy Corpsman with the Marine Corps. I came back and -- I was a medevac corpsman out of Da Nang. I came back to Chicago and worked, after I left -- I left the country in 1971. Started working for the, um, veterans hospital in Chicago. I worked there for about a year, and I was pretty burned out with medical care by that time and trauma. It's what I dealt with for four years.

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KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: And so I went to -- back to school in Colorado at the University of Colorado, undergrad. And I started working for the park in the summer time.

[00:02:22]KAREN BREWSTER: And what's your undergrad degree in?

JEREMY WATSON: East Asian Studies.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. It had nothing to do with the built environment or the un-built environment?

JEREMY WATSON: No, it didn't, but, I mean, I have a history of that. I mean, I did a lot of that when I was a kid.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. What do you mean?

JEREMY WATSON: I worked with my grandfather and my father.

KAREN BREWSTER: Doing construction?

JEREMY WATSON: Doing construction work and doing renovations, and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: So I started doing that, I mean. But, my medical background was a benefit in the backcountry, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: I worked in the backcountry for thirty years.

[00:02:58]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So Skagway, it was re -- tell me about rehabilitating the trail, what you had to do that first year.

JEREMY WATSON: Well, when I came on board there in 1980, came up there in May of 1980, and, um, was able to drive. That was the first year that the Klondike Highway was open.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

JEREMY WATSON: So I was able to drive. I drove all the way up from Colorado to, um -- to Skagway. And then I got there, and I -- it was -- the park was very small then. It was -- we were above the liquor store, the office was. And I had a crew of two women and a -- and a man. I can't remember his name. But none of them had any experience whatsoever in construction. So um -- and they had no base camp. They had -- the guy who preceded me, I don't recall his name, but he had done a long study the year before I got there, and all he did was lay out where he was gonna blast. He was a -- he came from, I think, North Cascades.

[00:04:22]KAREN BREWSTER: So the trail was not obvious anymore from what it had been historically?

JEREMY WATSON: No, in places it was obvious, but most of the bridges were in disrepair or ready to fall in or nonexistent. The trail was overgrown in most places. And they had, as I said, no base camp for the people to set up their camp so they could work. So I set that up at Canyon City. And I spent about two days scouting the trail by myself, and then located a place up on the -- up on the knoll so we could see all the way down the Lynn Canal.

[00:05:01]And then we -- I had to fall some trees there, and we had a helicopter come in and bring in our stuff, because the gear that I had -- I had put together the gear. Um, we had very minimal equipment, because they'd ordered nothing. And nobody there had any experience doing that kind of work, but I was fortunate enough to meet on some of the first days that I was in Skagway, Roy Nelson, who you interviewed earlier.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And Roy was an immeasurable value to me. [00:05:36]And we were ostracized in that town because we worked for the park. They used to throw rocks at my car, call me an f-ing hippie, and um, just give us crap all the time 'cause we worked for the Park Service. So we were sort of persona non grata there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even with Roy, who was from Skagway?

JEREMY WATSON: Roy took a lot of heat because he was one of the first guys to work for the park, because everybody else was working for the railroad. They didn't like the fact that he'd taken a job with the Park Service. But he did anyway, because Roy's Roy. A very skilled man, and uh -- and multi-faceted in his knowledge. [00:06:23]And so I found this location, and then we had the helicopter fly in, but the pilot was not what I was used to working with in Vietnam. 'Cause that's what I was, I was on helicopter medevacs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And he couldn't get all the way in, so he dropped the load about halfway down the hill. And we had to haul all the stuff up pretty much from the bottom of the hill up the -- I don't know if you've ever been to the base camp on the Chilkoot.

KAREN BREWSTER: I -- in August, I will, but I have not been there yet.

JEREMY WATSON: Well, you'll know then it's straight up. It's up on a knoll. You just walk up the face of the hill.

[00:06:59]KAREN BREWSTER: What kind of gear and supplies was it that then you had to carry?

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, we had to carry chainsaws up and gas and food and tents and, um, tarps for the -- tarps to set up a shelter. We just had a lean-to shelter. We didn't have any enclosed shelter at all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: So it was very minimal.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did you have lumber to build shelters or to do --

JEREMY WATSON: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Trail construction?

JEREMY WATSON: No, we had -- we didn't have anything at that time. I ord -- I immediately ordered -- set up and ordered -- and started ordering materials so that we could start replacing bridges. [00:07:39]Um, usually most of the -- we did some of the lower work first on the bridges, but we had to open up the trail up above 'cause it was completely grown over in a lot of locations. There was, you know, the steps. There weren't any steps. It was really slick, and it was dangerous trail to work on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[00:08:02]JEREMY WATSON: And the problem for me is that I had a crew that had no skills, so I was able to convince Dick Simms, who was the superintendent then, that I needed Roy to help me on the trail, because I had to have somebody that knew what was -- that knew how to work. And so that first year was pretty tenuous, and the -- it was just hard to get a lot of work done because it would be, like, you know -- I don't know if you've done any trail work before, but it's hard -- it's hard -- hard work.

KAREN BREWSTER: I haven't because it's such hard work.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm aware.

JEREMY WATSON: I'm paying for that now, but --

KAREN BREWSTER: You know, I've hiked enough to know how hard it must be to put in some of those places.

JEREMY WATSON: Well if I dropped -- if I dropped a tree, I've got -- usually got guys who can help me pick it up, and with sweet hooks and carry it to the site. (background noise from the street outside the window) But these guys would pick it up, and then I'd be carrying one side, and then they'd just drop it. And they'd drop it, and I'd just, you know, almost killed me a number of times. And I'm just going, I can't deal with this shit. So it was very -- it was very difficult. I was able to get a lot of the brush cut.

[00:09:14]KAREN BREWSTER: But, so you didn't start down at Dyea at the beaver ponds and work your way up? You started --

JEREMY WATSON: No, the beaver ponds weren't there then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's true.

JEREMY WATSON: The beaver ponds didn't -- they didn't come into existence until early '90's.

KAREN BREWSTER: But still, you didn't start at the bottom and walk your way up? You started --

JEREMY WATSON: No, I hiked all the way. I did the whole trail first, but we needed a midway point to set up a camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And then after we set that up, and got that together and got our material -- our stuff in there, then I could start working on the lower end.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you worked both directions from Canyon City?

JEREMY WATSON: But I needed a base camp from which to operate.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And I didn't want that to be lower on the trail. They suggested Sawmill, which is -- I didn't -- that was -- you know, no use to me, that's only three miles in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So Canyon City --

JEREMY WATSON: I needed something -- Canyon City's about 7.8 miles in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: So it's about halfway.

[00:10:05]KAREN BREWSTER: So you were doing trail from Dyea to the -- the Canadian border?

JEREMY WATSON: Correct.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: But we didn't do -- we -- I wasn't able to -- due to the fact -- the nature of the crew, I wasn't able to do a lot that year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: As far as -- I was able to put in some bridges, but that -- I pretty much did that by myself until I got Roy, which was only about midway through the season.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And, um, so we -- and then I came down to the lower end and cut brush and opened that up. But I still didn't have the right people nor the materials, and so that -- that year I ordered lots of materials, lots of 3x12x20 stuff, with stringers for the bridges. And 4x12x20 foot stringers for the bridges. And I ordered a lot of 6x6, um, stringers for

the -- the 4x12's were for the decking. The stringers I ordered, they got the wrong stuff, so they got 4x4's, which were useless for me, so.

[00:11:17]KAREN BREWSTER: What's a stringer?

JEREMY WATSON: The stringer is what the -- what the bridge deck is laid on. It goes from one end of the -- from one embankment to the other.

KAREN BREWSTER: It's all one piece?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. You don't --

JEREMY WATSON: That's a stringer. Usually 20 foot, it's about as much as you can get on milled lumber.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And if you have to have a longer span, you have to put --

JEREMY WATSON: You had to cut a tree down.

KAREN BREWSTER: You have to put something in the middle to hold it up?

JEREMY WATSON: Well, I did that, too, but that's a whole other story. Those are piers.

[00:11:47]KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, piers. I couldn't remember what they were called.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, piers, we did that on the -- on the -- on the part of the Taiya that splits off and comes down along the trail. That comes, uh, goes through that area that you called -- referred to as the beaver ponds, which was --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: Which was not a beaver pond then. Yeah, so there was a couple places there, and there was a lot of bank erosion. There was -- [00:12:17]The Chilkoot Trail is, you know, it's a narrow valley there. It's not very wide.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: But above it is -- historically, it's just been -- it gets all glacial fed, so whenever it would rain for a couple days, it would flood.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: So flooding was a constant problem. And so the banks were all cut, and they -- the campgrounds were all -- the cabins were a mess, and the -- the whole thing just needed total renovation, restoration.

[00:12:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So did you decide where to put the campgrounds?

JEREMY WATSON: No, the campgrounds at that time, there was one at Finnegan's, which was later closed. There was one at Finnegan's Point, which was -- which was improved two or three different times. There was that there -- it was always flooded, so we had to build a whole drainage system through there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: Um, and then there's another one at Canyon City, which had a -- that cabin was built in 1950's by prison labor.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

JEREMY WATSON: And the same in Sheep Camp. And there's one at Pleasant Camp.

[00:13:29]KAREN BREWSTER: Where's Pleasant Camp? Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: Pleasant Camp is about four miles up from Canyon City.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. Ok. Right.

JEREMY WATSON: You go Pleasant Camp and then Sheep Camp, and then after Sheep Camp, there's no campgrounds. You go over the summit.

KAREN BREWSTER: You go over the summit, and then you're on the Canadian side.

JEREMY WATSON: You're on the Canadian side. And then they can deal with you.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And they do have campgrounds now.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, they have some.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [00:13:56]Um, well, it sounds like a lot of work. Hard -- hard work.

JEREMY WATSON: It was a hell of a lot amount of work, and it was made even more difficult by the fact that I didn't have a trained crew.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But then the -- there are a couple of streams there that -- the -- the source of the Taiya comes right out of the -- comes down from the -- the pass, and it's a very swift-moving stream, and it can get very deep, very dangerous. So we decided that we needed to -- decided that we needed to put in a suspension bridge there. Because I didn't have the timber in that area to -- to get across that stream. As I did -- was I used the um -- [00:14:45]Well, what we did on the lower end of the trail, we decided to put in two suspension bridges, one at Canyon City, one at what we call Twelve-Mile. Or Eleven-Mile Bridge. And those are both suspension bridges. And Roy was my lead man on both of those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you need those to be engineered?

JEREMY WATSON: We never -- they had drawings for them, but we engineered them. We made -- they brought an engineer down from region who -- who talked with us and said, "You guys can build this." But we had to move 60,000 pounds of cement. I think the total stuff we had to fly up was well over 85,000 pounds of equipment.

[00:15:36]KAREN BREWSTER: Wow. Now did that helicopter get it in the right place?

JEREMY WATSON: That helicopter got -- we got a good helicopter pilot that time. We used an old DEELY (sp?) helicopter that can hold 3000 pounds, but -- Well, it took almost a week to haul everything in. I mean, we had -- we had cement. We had to -- we had to store that. We had to build a base camp for the guys who were working on that bridge. And then they had -- they had received these logs from, um -- sheet -- from Sitka. And they shipped 'em up on the barge to -- to Skagway, and they got in the year that I was -- first year I was there, but I couldn't do anything with 'em then. Um, and so we had those skidded into the site where I was going to use them in the winter.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: They used a CAT to bring 'em in. And set those up, but they -- they were old logs, and they were rotted on one side. But they were still viable, 'cause I -- what I did is I took the -- I cut the rot off of it. And then actually cut a deck into the bridge.

[00:16:49]KAREN BREWSTER: So did you have sort of one of those --

JEREMY WATSON: Lumber makers?

KAREN BREWSTER: Lumber things on chainsaws?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, we couldn't use it on this 'cause the wood was -- the wood was not -- the wood wouldn't handle it. I mean, it was -- it was not in great -- great -- but they wanted to use them, so I did the best I could with what I had. But that was the second year. [00:17:10]And then I had -- I got a hold of a number of guys that I knew from other parks. They came up, and we had -- we had eight people that worked on the trail that year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: And none of the people that were on it the first year came back again.

KAREN BREWSTER: Except for Roy.

JEREMY WATSON: Except for Roy. The other people just -- in fact, they quit about mid-season. They said they couldn't -- they couldn't handle the work. So it was Roy and I for that first season. I don't know what I would've done without Roy. Roy and I are best friends.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. That's great. [00:17:44]Um, yeah, I was thinking that, so yeah, you felled trees, so some of the bridges are made out of wood from the local trees?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. What I did is we would go in and try to cull the trees that we thought were damaged in some way. And -- and we never cut anything that there wasn't other timber that could grow into that site. And I'm a firm believer of integrating any construction into the landscape, so we were very particular about, you know, clearing -- taking down the trees. And, of course, we damaged a lot of the ground plane there when we skidded them, 'cause we had to skid the logs in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: And we used rollers that we cut in the forest, and we used a come-along. We used a power winch. We used a chainsaw --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

JEREMY WATSON: -- winch that we used. We used that to -- but it was still a hell of a task. And we put two piers in that river.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: And then we filled it with rock. We had 'em haul up rock in the winter time, as well. Truckloads of rock. And then we filled those piers in with that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: So I built two piers. While I was building those, Roy was starting on the footings for the suspension bridges.

[00:19:07]KAREN BREWSTER: So those piers were on the -- just the regular bridges? They're not on a suspension bridge.

JEREMY WATSON: No, you don't use piers on a suspension bridge. A suspension bridge is a suspension bridge.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. That's why it's a suspension bridge.

JEREMY WATSON: That's why you call it a suspension bridge.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: But we had to, um -- I mean, that -- you were in the river all day long.

You know, I mean, it's -- it was -- And then we had to fill those in, and then fill in the prow of the pier, so that when the river came -- comes downstream, then it would cut the force of the river off so that it wouldn't get underneath them and taken them away.

Which it eventually did anyway, but --

[00:19:47]KAREN BREWSTER: So, yeah, you're -- you're standing in the cold river water all day?

JEREMY WATSON: All day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because in like, big bridge-building, they divert the water. But you didn't have that ability.

JEREMY WATSON: We don't have that kind of capability.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: Everything we did out there was manual tools.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Chainsaws was the best -- was the most extensive tool we had.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: So no, we didn't have any -- we didn't have any -- any cranes or anything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: No, everything we did was by brute force. All our work was that way.

[00:20:19]I mean, we had to haul -- when we built our cabin, we had to haul cement up from the -- from Canyon City on our backs, and about seventy, eighty pounds apiece and then haul it up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: To build the footers for our cabin, and then haul all the lumber up.

KAREN BREWSTER: How many miles is that between -- ?

JEREMY WATSON: From Canyon City?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: It's about -- it's about half a mile.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: But as I say -- you'll find out what that hill's like.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, no, I mean, eighty pounds, a half a mile's a long way.

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, we usually carried packs about sixty pounds every day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Every day to work, because we had chainsaws, gas. And then we would -- we'd leave a lot of our tools on site.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But I mean, I'm scattered here, I'm just moving around.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's ok.

JEREMY WATSON: A lot of different sites here, but um.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[00:21:07]JEREMY WATSON: Um, it was -- those first two years, three years, were pretty -- were tough. I mean, we -- we didn't have any place to get dry because all we had was a tarp, and so we were wet most of the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that's why I was wondering if you built yourself a shelter as the first thing at your base camp.

JEREMY WATSON: No, we had to get clearance to build a shelter first, even though that land's on state land, it's not on federal land.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: They only have an easement through there, unless they've changed it.

That's the way it was at first. We had -- it took us a while to get the permission to build something there. So we -- but that took us a long time because we could only get -- we the materials we got, we sort of scrounged around for.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And got them. But that took -- it was, let's see, two years before we had just a floor and walls, and we still had a tarp. We didn't have anything closed in. It was probably four years in before we had windows, had a roof.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's -- you guys are tough.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's cool.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, you were wet. You were miserable, most of the time because of all the rain.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But, um, I mean, it's still great work. [00:22:29]Then we had problems with bears. Lots of problems with bears.

KAREN BREWSTER: Such as?

JEREMY WATSON: Well, once we got the -- we got the doors on. Putting a door on with a ¾-inch plywood door, and then put a lock on it with a hasp, and the windows were just screened in. We didn't have any glass in 'em then. We had no roof, just a tarp. And they came in, and the bears came up -- and we had our food in -- in boxes that were locked up, but these bears came up. And this is when we were not there. And they -- they ripped the door off the hinges, got in and tore all the boxes open, threw the food all over the place. Totally destroyed, like, I don't know, \$1000 worth of food for all of us. 'Cause Roy and I were at that camp, and then Andy Robertson and Bob Spinhoven and Clark Likes, they were all up above. But the -- it was funny, the bears got in there, and they had -- I think Roy had this Aunt Jemima phony-ass pancake sa-- um --

KAREN BREWSTER: Syrup.

JEREMY WATSON: And I had pure maple syrup with -- in glass. And he had something that was in a plastic container. And the bear just said, I don't want to have anything to do with that shit, and -- but he got -- somehow he got the cap off of it, just poured it out on the floor, and he ate that. But he wouldn't eat the other stuff.

KAREN BREWSTER: So he ate -- the bear ate the maple syrup, the good stuff?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, he ate the maple syrup. Didn't touch the other stuff. But they went through the food. Boy, I'll tell you. They -- [00:24:23]And then there's a ranger there. When -- after that happened, there's a ranger that does -- Jay Cable. He used to be the chief ranger there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: You know him?

KAREN BREWSTER: No, I know the name. That he was one of the early rangers.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, Jay was a different kind of a guy.

KAREN BREWSTER: What does that mean?

JEREMY WATSON: I'd rather not say.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: I wasn't particularly fond of him. He had absolutely no idea of how to do stuff, the work that we were doing. I mean, he was completely oblivious to it, and I had to convince him every time that this was what we needed to do. And he was -- he was difficult to deal with. He wasn't very supportive, but -- but, I mean, that was just who he was. I mean, he was a decent enough guy, but he just didn't -- he didn't understand what maintenance was about.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Well, you weren't even doing maint -- you were doing construction and things for safety purposes.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, he had -- he had no idea how to do any of that stuff, and so everything we did, we had to -- you know, I had to order everything. I had to see that the

helicopters were there. I had to order all the -- the slings and nets to haul our stuff in. And, I mean, I taught him a lot of stuff how to do it, but -- but it wasn't very easy to deal with him sometimes.

[00:25:45]KAREN BREWSTER: And you were crew leader for the trail?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is that what your title was?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you know whose idea it was to start doing that trail reconstruction?

JEREMY WATSON: Um, I think it was dictated by the region. Um, Dick Simms was the --was the superintendent when I first got there. He was a character. Dick was a good guy, though, but he'd been tossed from Crater Lake. I don't know if you remember any of that stuff, but there was this problem with the sewage water treatment plant. A lot of people got sick.

KAREN BREWSTER: At Crater Lake?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, when he was the superintendent there. So they sent him up to Skagway.

(musical ringtone)

KAREN BREWSTER: Is that your phone?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, it's all right. It's going to be on your -- you want me to turn it off?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I forgot to ask you to turn it off. Or we just have to listen to the music for a little while.

JEREMY WATSON: It's not bad.

[00:26:41]KAREN BREWSTER: So Rick Simms --

JEREMY WATSON: Dick Simms.

KAREN BREWSTER: Dick Simms. Yeah, I don't know anything about him. I mean, I've seen his name.

JEREMY WATSON: He was the first -- he was the superintendent when I got there. Um, yeah, we should -- I should have started with the -- I remember going into the office for the first time and going upstairs above the liquor store and meeting Dick. He was sitting in his chair with his feet up on the desk and reading the newspaper. I said, "Hey, Dick, hello." And he went -- 'cause nobody else was in the office. And he went, "Oh, yeah, yeah. How you doing there?" (noise from outside) But, uh, he was a real character. And I remember the first -- the first year when we're -- they had like, the end of the year, you know, sort of pep talk for the -- for the employees. And there weren't very many people that worked there then. There was a lot of people that worked on restoration, but, I mean, I only had a few people on the -- on the trail. At that time, just Roy and I. But Roy and I were there, and a couple of the rangers: Chad Dense, Chas Dense, and Cristi Herren. So we're up there with all these permanent employees. And Dick looks at us, and he said, "Well, you know, the only reason any of us are here is 'cause we're all losers."

KAREN BREWSTER: That's a great pep talk.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. And he goes, "The only reason they sent us up here is because we screwed up somewhere else." And I went, "Hey, speak for yourself, man."

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: And everyone else is -- I mean, the other people are mortified, all the permanent employees, and Roy and I are in the back just laughing our ass off because it was hysterically funny. 'Cause that was why Dick was there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: Because he had screwed up and got sent there. But --

[00:28:38]KAREN BREWSTER: But you chose to go to Alaska and to go there?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. They asked me to come up there, and, I mean, I just thought it was a great opportunity. And it was. I mean, I stayed there twenty years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Every summer?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or did you stay during the winters?

JEREMY WATSON: No, I worked sometimes I worked on restoration crew, but, um, mostly I was just -- I was there from March until late November.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. That's more than just summer.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because in March, you're starting to plan out the work?

JEREMY WATSON: In March -- Yeah, in March, we're getting all the materials together. And because, you know, when you go up on the trail, you gotta have all your food together, all your equipment together 'cause you get -- you're gonna have -- you're gonna haul everything in in the spring.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: So you have to have each site planned out where you're going to be able to work at. And then you have to find a place to store the materials where it's going to be safe and as dry as possible. And then haul all the food in for -- you know, you're essentially there for five months, so you gotta -- you haul everything in, and what you don't haul in, you gotta haul it in on your back. Every -- the first year we worked ten fours. Ten off, four on. Ten on, four off.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ten days on, four days off?

JEREMY WATSON: Right.

[00:29:51]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that was my question, did you come into town -- in those five months, did you come off the trail and get a break and come into town?

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, yes we did. Yeah. You'd come in -- well, you'd come in one day, and then you'd be in town two days, and then it's time to go back up again. And then we'd hike back in. We used a Zodiac to get across the Taiya River, and that cut off the first hill. And then we would hike from there, and carry all -- you know, use these seventy, eighty-pound pack to carry all your food in for that -- that next shift because everything you had up there was like rice and, you know, staples. But if you wanted to bring in fresh food, then you had to -- you had to haul it on your back.

[00:30:34]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and there was probably some supplies or equipment or something that maybe you needed that you hadn't planned for.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, if we needed to bring stuff in, like we'd be asked to bring something up for the chainsaw or something. But I -- I ordered stuff every year to replace the stuff that we had.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Until we had all the equipment that we needed. But I -- I -- I think I told you this before. The guy -- the person who was there prior to my arrival had developed this whole scheme for just blasting rock every damn place on the trail. I mean, he just had no sensitivity to landscape and the historic fabric of the land.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, this is a historic trail. It's a historic park. But he had -- he wanted to blast everything. So they had gotten this Pionjar (?) rock drill. I mean, I had a blasting license from -- that I used to -- to clear snow and all in Glacier. But I just said, "That's ridiculous. I'm not going to do this. I'm not going to destroy all this historic fabric." I mean, it's an historic trail. And blast it. I mean, it was amazing. He had detailed maps where he was going to blast the whole damn thing up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and I say, if you do that, then you're not following the historic route.

JEREMY WATSON: That's correct.

KAREN BREWSTER: You're changing where it was gonna go.

[00:31:52]JEREMY WATSON: Right, but see, the problem was, is that people that were working there had -- at that time, there was, um, I can't remember who was the archeologist then. Karl was there for a long time. Karl's a good guy. He was easy to work with.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I don't know if he was there yet in 1980.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I don't remember who was there, but they had -- they had no idea. They thought this guy had a great plan. I just said, "No, you can't do this." I said, "We don't have -- we don't have clearance to do this." I said, "I'm not going to do it."

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm surprised that archeologists would've gone along with it.

JEREMY WATSON: I don't know if they did. I just saw it and said, "There's no way." And then when Karl got there, he just -- I just said, "This is their plan." And I said, "I -- I denied it." And he just said, "Good, 'cause I -- we can't do any of this."

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [00:32:39]So did you have a survey to know where the trail had been? Some kind of an old map or something?

JEREMY WATSON: No, I mean, you could tell. There were -- there were remnants of it. I mean --

KAREN BREWSTER: There was enough you could tell on the ground?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, there was enough I could tell. But, I mean, there were places, like around Finnegan's, where it was -- it was up to your knees walking through there. You used to have to take off your boots and walk through that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Up to your knees in water?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. 'Cause the river had changed?

JEREMY WATSON: Well, because the fl -- the water had come up high in the spring time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

JEREMY WATSON: And would just flood that whole area out. And then the place where the beaver ponds is, that was always a problem -- problematic for water as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [00:33:22]And then The Scales and all that steep rock part, I mean, how would you know where the trail was, because that doesn't get worn down by foot traffic?

JEREMY WATSON: There were cairns.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, there were.

JEREMY WATSON: There were cairns sporadically. We just kinda had to figure it out. And we approved -- we redid the cairns because most of them had fallen down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, the place was in total disrepair. They just -- nobody had really done anything. The only work that had been done prior to my arrival was by this guy, who mostly did just this, um, study on explosives.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [00:34:06]Well, that's what I was wondering about that rock part. Maybe it's obvious, you know, of where it would make most sense to go up. Maybe the landscape tells you that?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. I'd worked on trails for six-seven years before that. I knew -- I knew where the trail should be.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, it may not -- the river up there changes everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: It's the most dynamic stream I've ever been around in my life, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, I had to replace bridges, sometimes every couple years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really.

JEREMY WATSON: Because it would just take 'em out. We put a whole -- [00:34:38]We built a whole new campground in the late '80's. And around Sheep Camp, we put a new Sheep Camp -- a new -- built a new Sheep Camp campground. Spent two months building it, hauling in the sand, building all the, you know --

KAREN BREWSTER: Platforms and --

JEREMY WATSON: No, no platforms. Just -- just clearing all the brush and putting in sand and making it so they're really nice campsites. It was gone the next year.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow. From -- from flooding?

JEREMY WATSON: Took everything that we'd worked on for two months out. And then it started to take out Pleasant Camp, and we built a logjam in there. We spent a month in the river there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Man.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, that's -- (background noise from street) all my time was spent in the river. We anchored the banks at Six-and-a-Half-Mile Bridge. That bridge was taken out in a flood, and we had to replace that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what year any of these --

JEREMY WATSON: Six-and-a-Half-Mile Bridge was built in 19 -- um, '84. Um, the suspension bridges were built in '82 or '83. Took us two years to finish those. I mean, they were like fifteen -- the anchor was like fifteen feet wide. Fifteen by twenty by twelve. Twelve feet deep.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: And then we had to fill all that in with cement.

KAREN BREWSTER: And all by hand?

JEREMY WATSON: All by hand. We mixed it all by -- [00:36:23]I called up Jay when we were building that, and I said, "Jay, I need a new -- I need another cement mixer.

Portable. As light as you can get it." I said, "It's 'cause we're gonna have to haul it across the river by rope." He sends up a thousand-pound, huge cement mixer. Hand mixer, but it was enormous. I mean, we couldn't move it, you know. We put it on one side. It had to stay over there. So then we had to get another smaller one.

KAREN BREWSTER: I didn't know they made small, portable cement mixers.

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, yeah. They make 'em about -- they're about this wide. But this one was huge. It was a great cement mixer. But we flew it in by helicopter and then put it on one side. And then we had to fly it from Canyon City up to Sheep Camp, I mean, up to Twelve-Mile Bridge. You have pictures of those? I've got pictures of them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Not yet. I will when I go up there. Uh, --

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, you know, we did a rudimentary cultural landscape report for that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Samson, Ferrara, and I. He was a classmate of mine at graduate school.

[00:37:37]KAREN BREWSTER: And so after that first year, did your crews become better? You had more people and --

JEREMY WATSON: Absolutely, because then I brought 'em up. A lot of 'em I brought up from Glacier National Park. I brought some guys up from Rocky Mountain National Park. A couple guys from Olympia. I got people who knew what they were doing.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you got to make the hiring decisions?

JEREMY WATSON: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so when you were up there in March, ready to order supplies and everything, you already knew how many people were going to be on your crew and who they were?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. Pretty much. I mean, I needed the -- I needed the people that, you know -- I needed people that had experience. Because it was -- it was rough dealing with people who don't know what they're doing. It's a dangerous job. I mean, people get killed on those jobs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: And, um, this guy -- one guy that worked on that -- the women were far -- by far superior to him, but he almost killed me a couple times, you know. And I just said, "You can't -- you can't come back. You know, you don't -- " He goes, "I can't do this kind of work." I go, "Yeah, I know that."

[00:38:48]KAREN BREWSTER: Is there a typical year, how many people you'd have? Or did it vary on what you were doing?

JEREMY WATSON: When we were doing the suspension bridges and a lot of those early log bridges --because the log bridge we built at Mile-and-a-Half is seventy feet long.

KAREN BREWSTER: Phew.

JEREMY WATSON: And we built two piers on that, and so we had three different -- we had a stringer coming from the -- from the west bank to the mid to the pier, and then we had another stringer going from that pier to the other pier, and then from that pier to the other bank. And then we cut out the deck, and I filled the deck with -- I put screen on the deck, or I'd cut the -- I'd actually taken out, and just cut with a chainsaw, cut the -- cut a groove into the deck -- into the logs. Was where it was rotted. I took it down to good wood, and then I put screen in there, and then I filled that with gravel. And then I made a deck out of it. It was a temporary fix for what we needed to do.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: They eventually brought in a steel, pre-fabricated piece of crap.

[00:39:53]KAREN BREWSTER: That's what I was going to ask you, if the bridges you built, are any of them still there?

JEREMY WATSON: Um, couple, not many. They don't last long up there. Twenty years is about the most you're gonna get out of any -- any wooden bridge up there. The suspension bridges are there. They'll be there for a long time. They're -- they're creosoted.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, they are.

JEREMY WATSON: After we put those in, we stopped using creosote.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh, but, yeah, everything you did was out of wood. You didn't use any metal?

JEREMY WATSON: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Not even for the suspension bridges.

JEREMY WATSON: Well, yeah. We did on those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, those, ok.

JEREMY WATSON: You gotta have metal -- gotta have metal cable.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. Ok. But, yeah. I'm trying to picture a suspension bridge.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, and the metal cable. The cable that the -- the suspender cable is about two inches.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: OD.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um.

JEREMY WATSON: And then you have the deck. You have the cable that goes underneath the decking, which is um -- and the main suspen -- the cables come down from the main cable to the deck, that holds the deck in place.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

JEREMY WATSON: And then the anchor points are -- come up over the top. When you see it, you'll be amazed.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: 'Cause we raised those things by hand. Put the top on by hand. They're about eighteen, nineteen feet tall.

[00:41:09]KAREN BREWSTER: I mean, I can't fathom doing it all by hand. How many people did you have on that crew?

JEREMY WATSON: Eight. But we split up. We were usually four -- four and four.

KAREN BREWSTER: Where did the other -- So four on the --

JEREMY WATSON: Four on the log bridge, and four were on the suspension bridge. Roy was the lead man on suspension bridges, and then we all worked together on the suspension bridges. We finished up the -- So we did this -- We got the suspension bridges and the log bridge done in the first and the second year. And the engineer was like, he was just -- he couldn't believe that we got it done. He didn't even know how the hell we got the stuff up. 'Cause when you get to, especially Twelve-Mile, the bridge, you'll just see it's -- I mean, it took us a long time to get those things up. I thought sure we were gonna get killed on that job.

[00:42:00]KAREN BREWSTER: But you got it all up in one season?

JEREMY WATSON: We got most of it up in one season. We finished it the second season. And then, like I said about Jay Cable, then he's just going, "Well, you guys didn't get much done this year." I'm going, "What, are you kidding?" But, yeah, he had no conceptual anala -- concept -- he was unable to conceptualize how -- what it takes to do construction like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: He just thinks, ah, it's just something that you can just get together and finish, and if you -- I said, "We don't have -- we don't have any power equipment. You know, we have no heavy equipment. Everything is by muscle here."

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. (background noise from the street)

JEREMY WATSON: Because we'd have 100-foot stringers, and we'd carry those in with -- by hand. Or when we couldn't move 'em with the uh -- with the uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: You said you had the power winch.

JEREMY WATSON: The power winch, sometimes that would break down, so we just had to move them by hand on rollers. [00:42:58]And then when we built the bridge at Six-and-a-Half-Mile, we didn't -- the only sand we had was downstream. And gravel to do the approaches, was downstream, and it was up this hill, this little knoll. So what we had to do was like, we had to -- one guy on the back of the wheelbarrow and two guys on the front, with like, almost like all roped in. They're like two horses. And then they pulled, and I pushed. And they pulled up the hill, and it was just like having this team of oxen carrying -- hulk -- it was pretty funny, but it was hard -- it was hard-ass work. But that's the kind of stuff that we did all the time. It was just -- you just had to figure out how to do it. You know, because there was nothing -- it was just -- that's why most of us have had our knees replaced, or our backs are screwed up. I don't think any of us are untouched by the work we did then.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, that's hard work. [00:44:05]Well, and it's interesting that there were women on the crews.

JEREMY WATSON: Just one year. There are now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: It wasn't -- um, I had no aversion to that. In fact, Polly, the one woman that worked on the crew the first year, I would've invited her back. Polly learned the skills. She was good, but she didn't want to. She wanted to go back to Haines. But the other two didn't want anything to do with it. They couldn't handle the work, so -- And then most people didn't want to -- a lot of the men couldn't handle the work.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well, I was going to say, as you say, nowadays, there are women. But even 1980, '82, women doing that kind of work was still maybe not so common?

JEREMY WATSON: No, it was very uncommon. But as I said, Polly was fine. She -- she -- I would've hired her back. She was a good worker.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the rest of the crews, most of the time it was all men when you were -- yeah?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. Yeah, I don't think many people wanted to have that job.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

JEREMY WATSON: The ones that did were, you know -- I mean, you busted your ass. That's the only way you could do it. I mean, we had -- we built -- eventually built platforms. We built a helicopter pad for the -- Roy and I built the helicopter pad for that site, for our

base camp. We used to just land on a rock. And you'd have to keep the engine going so that you didn't go fly -- go rolling down the hill.

[00:45:33]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And then you built all the campgrounds and the shelters and everything?

JEREMY WATSON: No, we didn't build shelters. We just -- the only shelters that's up there is -- Well, we built the ranger station at Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, there's a -- yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But that's the only thing. There's -- the only other shelter is the one at Canyon City for the trail crew and um, the -- like I said, the cabins -- I don't know what the -- I haven't been up there in a long time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I think at Canyon City, there is now some sort of a shelter so you can go in and dry out and stuff.

JEREMY WATSON: They had a cabin there. I don't know if they --

KAREN BREWSTER: And so I don't know if that's an old cabin or a new one.

JEREMY WATSON: The cabin was built in the '50's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But they never did any work on it.

KAREN BREWSTER: So I don't know if it's that same one, or another one.

JEREMY WATSON: And they had another cabin at Sheep Camp.

[00:46:22]KAREN BREWSTER: So how did you guys all get along, the different crews, the different years?

JEREMY WATSON: We got along fine, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause that's a lot of time together.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. I mean, Roy and I were together on that trail for fifteen years. We spent more time together. I mean, each guy had his own individual tent.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And I bought a really good dome tents. And you kind of cleared a pad, you know. We didn't have wooden pads.

(musical ringtone)

JEREMY WATSON: Son of a bitch, I thought I turned this thing off.

(break)

JEREMY WATSON: Sorry about that.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's ok.

JEREMY WATSON: Um.

[00:46:55]KAREN BREWSTER: So everybody had their own tent.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, the first -- the first year, we had this guy we called Jimmy Joe. He was essentially useless. He didn't last. He quit. He quit about two weeks in. He said he couldn't handle the work. We had a couple guys like that that just couldn't -- and one guy came up and worked for a week and just went, I can't do this. And another guy just flew in. We were flying his gear up. We were flying all his gear up. I said, "Ok, Larry. We're going to fly your gear up now." And I -- and I hear on the radio down in Skagway, he goes, "Don't bother, man. I'm not coming up. I'm leaving." Came all the way up from Colorado to work on a job and quit the first day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: Said he couldn't handle living out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: He obviously didn't do his research before he took the job.

JEREMY WATSON: Well, he used to work -- he worked at Rocky Mountain for thirty years, but he was -- he lived in a cabin at Rocky Mountain. There aren't a lot of people that want to live out there like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [00:48:03]Well, that's what I was going to say, I know it's tough. And to get along with people, you know, it's different than, you go to an office, and you have coworkers, and you go home at night.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, the guys that -- like Mike Catsi, and Roy Nelson, and Andy Robertson, um, Mike Beierly, we all got along fabulously well. And -- but eventually, it ended up there were just four of us up there for the whole trail. And what I did is put two guys at Sheep Camp, and then Roy and I stayed at Canyon City. And then when we worked up at Sheep Camp, we would just hike -- or above, up to the top, the pass, we would -- we never liked Sheep Camp. There's a lot of -- there's a lot of spirits in Sheep Camp. There's a lot of stuff going on at Sheep Camp. I never did like being there. So we would just hike, like, eight or nine miles to go to work and then hike to go back at night and get home at like, 10:30. We did that every day.

[00:49:02]KAREN BREWSTER: But so, if you guys were split up, then, like the guys at Sheep Camp did -- did a project up --

JEREMY WATSON: They worked from -- they worked from Sheep Camp to the top, and we worked from Canyon City to Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: To Sheep Camp. And then what about below --

JEREMY WATSON: And then when we -- we did that on the first couple days, we were working.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: We didn't need -- there wasn't a lot of stuff we needed to do on the lower end. Just mostly keep the brush cut.

[00:49:27]KAREN BREWSTER: And so the whole thing with the beaver ponds and all that boardwalk, that's all since --

JEREMY WATSON: The beaver ponds started --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- that's after you?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, the beaver pond -- No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

JEREMY WATSON: It was there before. It started when I was there. We, um, came in one year, and it was flooded more than usual, so we went out and got our waders on and went into the -- there's a little, like a little pond that was in there. And then I saw the -- I saw the dens. I go, "Oh shit, man, we got beavers in here. We're screwed." So at first we just tore a rent in their dam a bit so that we could drain -- Didn't want to -- we didn't want to kill 'em. We didn't want to -- we wanted to -- we just wanted to lower the water level so there wasn't back-flooding the trail. So we did that one day. We came out three days later, and shit, they'd fixed all that and they'd even built it stronger. So then we brought in some steel culvert, and we took a -- took a -- and stuck that through the dam at four different locations to keep the water from -- water level at a viable level. And within a week, they'd completely stopped up all the --

KAREN BREWSTER: They just filled the culverts?

JEREMY WATSON: They filled the culverts with mud and sticks and blocked it all out. And then we tore it out, and then they'd fill it up. Then we tore it out, and they'd fill it up. They're smart as hell. And the bears tried to get at 'em sometimes, but, man, their dens just keep getting bigger and bigger, and the water kept getting deeper and deeper.

[00:51:12]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it's interesting why the bears didn't get rid of 'em.

JEREMY WATSON: They can't get at 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

JEREMY WATSON: Ever see a beaver den?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Those lodges, yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I thought maybe when they were swimming, the bears would go after them, but I guess they're --

JEREMY WATSON: Nah, they're too good. They're too smart.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: They're smart, man. They're the best engineers going.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yes, they are.

JEREMY WATSON: No, they get down in there. It's a -- I could see once in a while. I could look down in there, and I could see their eyes in there. But we didn't want -- we didn't want to kill them. [00:51:41]I mean, the same thing with the bears. I mean, they would tell us -- people do dumb shit on the trail, and they'd just go, we needed to take that bear out, and I'd have to -- I'd um, several -- several times, I'd track the bears and then find 'em. One time they got into, uh -- Bill Sell, who worked on the trail with me, he left his pack sitting on the trail. And he went up the trail about a half a mile and then he came back, and his pack was gone. He couldn't find his pack. So I went up and got the twelve-gauge, um, at the camp. I rarely ever carried it. And, uh, I started tracking the bear 'cause Bill was freaked out. He said, "I don't know where my pack is." I tracked the bear, put in two cracker shells and then some slugs, and then some buckshot. Buckshot and then slugs last. And I -- I came up on the -- came up on the bear, and he was sitting up on his haunches. And he had both his paws like this, and he was eating Bill's peanut butter sandwich, just like he was like, eating a sandwich with his paws.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like a human.

JEREMY WATSON: He was just sitting there with the pack open. And so I -- I fired a cracker shell at him, just over his head. He looked at me like, is that your best shot, man? And I went, ok, this is going to take more than one. So I -- then I got him another one, and I hit him about right here in the shoulder. It doesn't really hurt 'em that much, just scares 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And he took off, and I got his pack back, but they -- they wanted me to kill him. I just didn't want to do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, it's their place -- it's their world, too, so -- In fact, I was told a number of times to destroy bears, and I just didn't want to do that. I ran 'em off. I'd track 'em, and then I'd just keep after them until they took off.

[00:53:38]KAREN BREWSTER: Did they -- did it work, or did those bears come back?

JEREMY WATSON: No, they -- they took off. They came through our camp all the time. We had sort of a symbiotic relationship going. We didn't mess with them, they didn't mess

with us. But I -- leave your tents open, you know, unzip the front of your tents and let 'em go in there. They're just inquisitive.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And they -- or sometimes you come back, your sleeping bag's sitting outside, and your pads are all outside. But they didn't -- you know, when you used to close it, they'd be -- they'd want to know what's inside, so they'd take their claws and just rip a \$300 tent apart to get at it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And I used to say, "Well, we can't afford to do this, man."

[00:54:18]KAREN BREWSTER: So back to the beavers. They were so smart, they kept overriding your attempts to drain the water. What did you end up doing?

JEREMY WATSON: Then they ended up doing something I didn't want to do. They ended up building an elevated deck through there. It didn't work, and it -- just 'cause the river just kept going. I mean, it just -- the water just kept getting higher and higher. This was after I was not working. This was after -- you know I suffered a serious injury there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: I don't know if you were aware of that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I am, and I didn't know if we wanted to talk about it, or we talk about it at the end. It's -- so um, just to finish the beaver thing, and then we can talk about it. So that -- putting that elevated boardwalk was after you? Why didn't you think that was a good idea?

JEREMY WATSON: Because I knew it wouldn't work. I mean, they were using wood as a deck, which got really slippery. It was dangerous, and people fell off of it. And, um, the river just -- I mean, it just kept rising, 'cause they just kept building the dam higher.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And then the more kits they had, the more beaver there were. I think they'd finally given up, and they were going to move the trail. Which is what I wanted to do in the first place, is just move the trail up on the hillside and go back around it and stay on the high -- on the high ground. I wanted to do that, shit, ten years before they even showed up because there was still water there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

[00:55:43]JEREMY WATSON: I mean, Roy and I came down one year, and it'd been raining for weeks. And the river went from about eight feet to twenty-five feet in about a day and a half.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

JEREMY WATSON: And we came down, and, um, we hiked down from Canyon City, and we got down to just before where the beaver ponds are at. There's a place that we call the Rock Garden, and there used to be, actually, a landing space for airplanes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

JEREMY WATSON: But it's long since grown over. But, Pat Moore, who used to work on the trail, who's unfortunately passed away from ALS, his dad used to land his plane in there. We got down to there, and we were carrying our packs and get out 'cause we were coming out, and got a little bit further down the trail, and the water just kept getting higher. First it was at our knees, and then before we got to about Two-And-A Half Mile, the water was like, right here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Chest high.

JEREMY WATSON: Chest high. So we tied -- tied each other up, and then -- Roy doesn't swim.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

JEREMY WATSON: And so, I -- I took his pack, and I just said, um, "I'll carry this across, then I'll come back and get you." 'Cause -- 'cause Roy -- he does not like water at all. A lot of Alaskans don't swim.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: 'Cause you fall in the water, you're pretty much shot anyway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Um, so we got out and hell, we -- they, in fact, Si (Dennis) came to get us, and he took the -- he had the Zodiac, and he came almost to Finnegan's Point in the Zodiac.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow. That's Si Dennis?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Senior?

JEREMY WATSON: Junior.

KAREN BREWSTER: Junior. Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: Si Dennis, Sr. passed away. He never worked on the trails.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: Great guy. Did you know him?

KAREN BREWSTER: No, I just know these names. I don't know them.

[00:57:41]JEREMY WATSON: Si Dennis is a great guy. He's another Vietnam vet.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep.

JEREMY WATSON: One of the best people I know in Skagway. His parents were wonderful people. One of the few Native families. Andy Beierly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: Another tremendous individual. Andy helped us immensely on the -- logistically. He and Si.

[00:58:00]KAREN BREWSTER: So you and Roy got through that deep water?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: By -- with the Zodiac?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. I mean, we were totally drenched, and it was ice -- like ice water.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, man.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, we were freezing, man, because it -- it -- it was -- it was that way. It was up to our chests, for about a quarter of a mile.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now, did you --

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, it was -- it was -- it was -- it was touch and go there for a while.

[00:58:26]KAREN BREWSTER: Did you guys have radio communication when you were out there on the trail?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, we had radios, but they rarely ever worked worth a damn, and they were battery driven. They're, you know, the big old radios. We didn't have -- which it would've been great if we'd had cell phones in those days, but we didn't have those.

KAREN BREWSTER: You didn't have hand-held VHF or anything?

JEREMY WATSON: No. We had -- we had radios that were -- I mean, they worked ok, but they -- the batteries, by the time -- after ten days, the batteries were about gone. We didn't have any way to, um, charge the batteries then. We had a generator lighter that we used. But only to charge batteries. Usually we charged, like, eight or nine batteries, took 'em up with us before we got up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: So --

[00:59:12]JEREMY WATSON: But every year was -- you know, every year was a flood year. Every year was something. We had to repair something. It was -- it was -- as far as job security, you'd never be without a job on that trail. They're still having the same problems. I remember this guy -- this guy came down from Anchorage once and was going, "Well, we'll put the campground right over here." This is by the old campground up at Pleas -- uh, Sheep Camp. He goes, "This looks really flat, and it's nice." And I go, "This is March." And then he goes, "Yeah, so what." I go, "Well, give it another month, and it's gonna be a water -- there's nothing but water in there." I said, "That's -- you can't put a campground there." But these guys would come up, they'd have no idea what they were doing. So we'd have to -- you know, we'd have to go through that a lot. But I mean, we had to change the campground at Sheep Camp, I don't know, four or five times.

[01:00:05]I could tell you some great, funny stories about Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, go for it, if you want.

JEREMY WATSON: No. Well, this is a great story. Roy'll kill me for telling this story. So they used -- in their infinite wisdom, they decided to, uh, use these outhouses that were -- that had a -- that used a holding container. And then they would fly 'em out, after they were full.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And they were supposed to, like, you know, the -- this -- the -- the heat from the sun was supposed to, like, drain a lot of the liquids out, but -- but it never worked. So we brought -- we brought the -- and it had like a little plywood cover on. And so Roy and I tilted it over and we brought -- brought the helicopter in, and it was my old buddy that came up and picked it up, and as it lifted off, the wind came up. It started to sail on us. This is so -- still laugh to this day. And it blew the top off of it, the cover off of it. And then it tilted, and then it just drenched Roy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, god!

JEREMY WATSON: And then the pilot is going on the radio, he's going, "Hey. You're gonna have to -- you gotta slow down, man. Them winds -- it's got -- it's got sailing on that thing. It's starting to sail." He goes, "Yeah, ok. I'll get it out of here." So he goes over the campground. And then it tilts all the way up, and it just spreads shit and toilet paper all through the campground, all over their tents, everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, man.

JEREMY WATSON: By the time he got it to town, it was completely empty. But Roy, that was the first time I've ever seen Roy get in the river if he didn't have to. Oh, god. It was -- I had to run in the woods 'cause I couldn't stop laughing. It was so -- but he was so infuriated.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I would think so. [01:02:18]I was going to say, there must be things that didn't work -- other things that didn't quite work out the way you'd hoped?

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, yeah, all the time. All the time. You had to do everything. You had to figure it out, on the run. But that was the good thing about it, you know. It required a lot of ingenuity. You couldn't exist up there without that. Anyway, couldn't exist out there without the guys like Roy Nelson and Andy Robertson and all the guys who -- who worked on the trails with us. And Mike Catsi, who's now -- he lives in Anchorage. He was an old Navy -- He's Australian.

[01:02:53]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it sounds like you enjoyed the challenge of trying to figure it out.

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, no, I enjoyed it immensely. That's the reason I stayed there. That and because I love working in the bush. I didn't want to work in town. I liked being in the backcountry.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even though it was really hard work and cold and miserable?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, it didn't bother me. I mean, you came out of there, you were -- you know, you felt like 100 percent all the time. It was hard work, but you came out of there, and you were a lot stronger than you were when you went in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, we hiked, easy, ten, fifteen miles a day with big packs.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: You know, no daypacks for us.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

JEREMY WATSON: But it was -- you know, it was challenging just to figure out how to do things because you had to do everything just with -- with brute force.

[01:03:42]KAREN BREWSTER: Is there any particular part that you're especially proud of that you figured out, and you accomplished and it worked?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I mean, the whole -- the whole idea -- the whole concept of trying to restore the trail and yet maintain some integrity as far as integrating our work into the landscape. That's what I worked -- that's what we worked hardest on. And making -- when we did the job, you give us a month, and you go back there, you'd never realize that we did that. So it wasn't a -- and John Warder, the guy who used to work -- who was the facility manager. Another guy that I didn't particularly get along with all the time. He had a motto, "Just quick and dirty." He didn't care about any of that stuff. It wasn't important to him. He came from Port Angeles.

[01:04:34]KAREN BREWSTER: So he was in the maintenance department for the park?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. He was the facility manager for maintenance.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: But that wasn't important to him. He just used to, you know, give me crap all the time because I paid attention to, you know, clearance for archeological sites, and, um, I cared a lot about if I cut lands or something, I tried to make it so you -- I tried to naturalize all that so that you -- And you didn't just go through this place and go, "Good god, they've cut everything down." I tried to make it look as natural as possible. So that's what I'm proudest of of that. And the fact that we -- Roy and I worked so -- I mean, we have a lifelong friendship, so --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:05:17]And it sounds like you also cared about the quality of your work in terms of building bridges that were gonna --

JEREMY WATSON: No, absolutely we did that. I mean, that was the whole thing. We didn't do anything that we didn't put our heart and soul into.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: There was no such thing with Roy and I just to just do something quick and dirty. It just wasn't who we were. I mean, I -- I went toe to toe with him a lot of times with that -- about that. Just you're taking longer than you should to get this done. Just cut 'em down. And it used to drive us nuts when he'd come up and just cut, anything in sight. Just didn't care.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Came from a logging family, so didn't have a lot of, um --

KAREN BREWSTER: That was the guy from Port Angeles?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [01:06:03]Well, I think it would be a little frustrating, you've spent all that time on a bridge and do such a good job, and then the next year have the river wash it out.

JEREMY WATSON: It was, but, you know, that's the river. The river never quits. It changed course all the time. I mean, there was one place that was about thirty feet from the -- the main -- aw, shit, about thirty yards from the bridge. The next year, we came back, and it was about three feet. So we had to completely redo it again. Like I said, it was -- you didn't realize that already -- there's never any -- never any doubt about that you'd have work to do.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[01:06:41]JEREMY WATSON: 'Cause every year at that bridge that I told you about with the piers and the logs that we built and we worked so hard on, we had a huge flood. And it came down, and the -- and the piers were so well built, um, but the -- but the river scoured underneath them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

JEREMY WATSON: And it just hauled 'em all, everything downstream.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what year that was?

JEREMY WATSON: Uh, probably 1989.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what bridge?

JEREMY WATSON: Mile-and-a-half.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: You can still find those piers downstream from that spot. They're still intact.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really.

JEREMY WATSON: Still rock in 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: I would think that, eventually, the river would've just eroded those piers away, too.

JEREMY WATSON: It did, that's what I'm saying. It did. It got 'em --

KAREN BREWSTER: No, but you said they're still there in chunks farther down.

JEREMY WATSON: No, the piers are still intact completely.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I'm surprised. The power of water is pretty intense.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. But the power of -- those things were well built. I mean, they -- they -- they didn't -- they're not going anywhere. They'll rot out, but they're not gonna --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: They're not gonna fall apart. They got twelve-inch spikes in 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. That helps.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

[01:07:52]KAREN BREWSTER: And so -- so you started in 1980. What was the last year you were up there?

JEREMY WATSON: Um, 2000.

KAREN BREWSTER: And do you want to talk about that last year?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I mean the last year, so April -- March, April, we had a lot of snow that year. So um, Roy and I -- they flew us up in a helicopter. (clears throat). Excuse me.

(break)

KAREN BREWSTER: End it.

(sirens in the background)

JEREMY WATSON: So um, that -- that previous -- that late fall, we had a big flood, and the logs came down and tore the underlayment cable off that suspension bridge, broke it. So it was a dangerous job, you know, but we had to fix it so people could get across the river. So Roy and I came down. Um, we flew in. And then we had to snowshoe down to -- 'cause the snow was really deep. And we had the -- the guys bring me in some new cable. And Roy couldn't swim, and the river was real -- pretty -- pretty high then. Even that early in the -- in the spring. So --

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm surprised you could get up there in March or April.

JEREMY WATSON: We flew in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, but the -- I guess, yeah, you snowshoed. I guess that's why.

JEREMY WATSON: We snowshoed down. We flew into our camp, and then we snowshoed down to the bridge.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: And nevertheless, it was still deep. I mean, because it was -- I mean, we -- it took us forever to get the -- even get to the bridge.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Um, but it was a dangerous job. So I was underneath -- I was stringing new underlayment cable in, pulling the old stuff out, and there's a chock in there, and it's about that -- that deep.

KAREN BREWSTER: Four, three inches?

JEREMY WATSON: And about -- it's about an inch diameter. And the cable comes down from this main cable, and it ties into this chock, and it's tied into the underlayment cable.

[01:09:59]KAREN BREWSTER: And what's a chock? It's a -- what's a -- can you describe what a chock is for those of us who don't know?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, it's a chock. It's about like -- it's about four inches long, about an inch in diameter. It's got a hook on the end, and you hook into -- the cable into it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: And then it hooks on to -- through the deck into the -- into the underlayment cable.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: Ok, so that's how you suspend that bridge. The deck is actually suspended from that main cable.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: So you're under a lot of psi, pounds per square inch.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: That -- that are coming down from that cable. And so, um, I heard it snap. The only thing that saved my life was I heard it snap, because, um -- and I twisted my neck really fast, and it hit me right here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Behind your ear.

JEREMY WATSON: Behind my ear, right where my vagus nerve comes down. And it knocked me down on the bridge, and, um, I was out for a little bit, not very long. But I was in incredible pain, and Roy came out and hauled me back, and then we had to snowshoe up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, god.

JEREMY WATSON: Um, but I had this, like, electrical shock that was going through me. (background noise from the street) Obviously, it had affected my -- my nerve.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And it was just like somebody had put, you know, like a cattle prod in your neck and just -- and that lasted -- and then it started snowing, so we couldn't get a helicopter in. And so I was in intense pain for like, three and a half days. And eventually we just had to -- Roy and I decided that look, man, we gotta get out of here. So we snowshoed out.

KAREN BREWSTER: All the way out?

JEREMY WATSON: All the way out.

KAREN BREWSTER: Holy cow.

JEREMY WATSON: Eight and a half miles.

[01:11:48]KAREN BREWSTER: And this was -- you guys were trying to reattach this cable, and it snapped? Is that what was happening?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, it snapped. Pulled through the deck.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: And it hit me in the back of the head. And then two weeks after that, I started having, like, panic attacks. Um, started having, um -- I couldn't carry any weight anymore. Actually, um, created what's called syringomyelia. It's a cavity in my spinal cord, between C5 and C7, and um, it affected me neurologically. And it -- then it brought back all the stuff that I'd suppressed from Vietnam.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: So I started having, like, flashbacks.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were having PTSD all over again, kind of?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. I -- I had serious PTSD. Because the only thing that really kept me from having it prior to that -- um, because I don't know if you realize what a medevac corpsman is, but you can imagine what it is.

KAREN BREWSTER: I can imagine what it is.

JEREMY WATSON: Um, I had suppressed all that, but after this accident, it just -- it didn't work anymore. Because the parks really helped me. There are a lot of Vietnam vets that were in the park.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Worked in the park. When I worked at Glacier, almost every guy there was a Vietnam vet.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Um, but the --

[01:13:12]KAREN BREWSTER: It's interesting that the -- hitting that nerve -- well, I guess it must have been the trauma of the event brought back the previous trauma. Is that how it was?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, it brought back that, but it was just like it affected the amygdala, and that shock and -- and what they suspect -- I mean, I've talked to neurologists about this. In fact, I see a neurologist to this day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: It's been twenty-some years that I still have -- that's why I have chronic nausea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Head injuries will do that.

JEREMY WATSON: Yep. Changed my whole life. After that, I couldn't carry a pack anymore. My neck wouldn't allow it. I worked for two more years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really?

JEREMY WATSON: After that accident.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow. On the trail?

JEREMY WATSON: Um-hm. I didn't want to give it up. But it got to be so painful that I couldn't deal with it. [01:14:04]But then I had to go through what ended up to be an incredibly arduous, um, and emotionally devastating, um, scenario with the Park Service. I'd missed maybe three days, four days of work in twenty-some years in the park. Worked for the parks since 1973, and John Warder, the guy I told you about, he -- when I -- when the neurologist gave me this -- said, "He can't work. He's got serious neurological problems from this." He just goes, "I don't know what this gobbledy-gook is." I think I'll still never forget that word that he used. And I said, "Look, man, if I could work, I would, but I can't." So they actually tried to deny me my workman's comp. They tried to deny me -- um, I mean, they wanted me to use my sick leave. I had to actually go to the -- to the regional office, and it took me two years of fighting them. I fought with workman's comp for years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is that 'cause you were a seasonal, do you think?

JEREMY WATSON: No, I was -- I was subject to furlough then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

JEREMY WATSON: I was a permanent employee, but they treated me -- After all those years -- I got so many commendations from the National Park Service, it's like they didn't even know me after that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

JEREMY WATSON: I have a lot of an --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Anger about that whole situation.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Do you know why that they did that?

JEREMY WATSON: I have no idea.

KAREN BREWSTER: But did you eventually --

JEREMY WATSON: What they -- what they eventually, at -- because they have to offer you a different job or let you go. And by that time, I was having, like, depression and anxiety, and I never had this prior to my accident.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Ever. Who gets to see or hear this anyway?

KAREN BREWSTER: The public. Whoever decides --

JEREMY WATSON: Are they interested in listening to this part?

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it's part of your story that -- why you stopped working on the trail.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I would've never stopped. I'd still be working up there today if I could.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. That's why this -- this is how it relates.

[01:16:14]JEREMY WATSON: This is, uh -- I mean, this is what the Park Service does to people after they work for 'em for so long, they don't -- they didn't try. I mean, there were some people who did. I can't remember her name. She was the acting direc -- acting superintendent of the park. (background noise from street) She helped me immensely to get what was rightfully -- I ended up having to medically retire, because I had worked as a construction supervisor for twenty-some years, twenty-five years, and they wanted me to -- they never asked me what I wanted to do. They just said, "Well, you can be the visitor use assistant and hand out pamphlets to the tourists." This guy who'd never worked there and was like seventeen years old. And I went, "I'm not doing that."

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: I can't -- I can't work with the public that much anyway. I never have.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And so they -- they tried to force me to do it. And I got an attorney, and I just said -- and my doctors just said, "There's no way he can do this. He can't work in the public. He's having flashbacks."

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: "He's having all this stuff from his military service." But that didn't really enter into the equation. They didn't care. And so I suffered immensely from that.

[01:17:30]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And eventually, though, you were able to medically retire?

JEREMY WATSON: I medically retired. And then several years after that, I was -- went through three years in the -- was in three different PTSD clinics. Spent a year in Hawaii in a PTSD clinic. All this as a result of that accident because I never had this --

KAREN BREWSTER: And the --

JEREMY WATSON: I mean, I was 100 percent disabled -- I was declared 100 percent disabled combat vet finally in 2009.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And so what year was the accident?

JEREMY WATSON: 1995.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then you officially -- ?

JEREMY WATSON: Retired in 1999.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: Just before 2000.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [01:18:17]And then what have you done since? You're here in Seattle.

JEREMY WATSON: I came down here to -- I went to, um -- and I had to go to the workman's compensation, and I got to know the director there very well, and he helped me get, um, into the rehab -- traumatic brain injury rehab at University of Washington. I went there

for a year for that. I had like eight different doctors and therapists. And while I was doing that, I decided, well -- They told me then, they said, "Look. You can never do this again. Your spine is permanently damaged."

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: I had to give up skiing. I had to give up hiking, backpacking. Said your spine won't take it. If you fall one time skiing, you could be paralyzed from the neck down. Um, so it changed my whole life.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: So I decided to do something different, so I -- I applied to graduate school at the University of Washington in landscape architecture. Got my master's degree there. And then I got my PhD in landscape architecture.

[01:19:29]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and that fits with building trails and readjusting the landscape.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I mean. It's all about -- now what my research is on is combat-related trauma and the healing properties of nature. Therapeutic gardens.

KAREN BREWSTER: Awesome.

JEREMY WATSON: And we built a few at the -- we built a therapeutic gardens, three different ones, at the VA hospital here in Seattle. We built 'em in Bosnia and Croatia and Sweden and Guatemala.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool. Now, do you teach at the university?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. I have for seventeen years.

KAREN BREWSTER: Great. Well, um, it's amazing that that accident didn't kill you right there on the spot.

JEREMY WATSON: No, it was. I mean, that's what my doctor told me.

KAREN BREWSTER: I didn't realize that you had walked out. I thought you'd been rescued by helicopter.

JEREMY WATSON: No. We -- Roy and I walked out. We -- well, snowshoed out.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Snowshoed down the river, actually.

[01:20:28]KAREN BREWSTER: I also didn't know it was just you and Roy. I thought it happened later in the construction season, and there was a whole crew.

JEREMY WATSON: No, it was just -- there was just the two of us. There was just the two of us. And then when I got out, we went immediately to the, um -- took me immediately to the --

KAREN BREWSTER: Clinic.

JEREMY WATSON: Clinic in Skagway. And then I had to listen to, "Well, you should have come here first." I went, "Screw that, man. I'm not going to come here first. I'm going to go to the doctor first. I can't -- I can't hardly deal with this."

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that you didn't go to the Park Service first?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

[01:21:02]KAREN BREWSTER: So the trail crew was all under the maintenance department, right? (background noise from street)

JEREMY WATSON: Correct. But the -- Clay Alderson was the superintendent then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And he didn't help me a hell of a lot, either. And I helped him many times during his tenure there.

KAREN BREWSTER: How did you help him?

JEREMY WATSON: Well, he got -- he got involved -- I don't want to talk about him.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: It's rather personal. He got -- with him and his wife, they separated.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

JEREMY WATSON: He got involved with somebody else, and -- but they never came to me and just said, "Ok, you've been a great employee for all these years, what would you like to do and we'll -- and we'll make that happen." No, they just tried to force this menial job and said, "Well, you'll get paid the same amount of money." I said, "That's not what inspires me to do my job."

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah, it does sound like you really enjoyed being out in the outdoors and on the trail, so that must have been difficult.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I mean, I gave my whole life to that. I didn't care about money.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: I didn't -- I mean, I worked from '73 to 2000, and that's -- and I really -- I missed almost no time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But yet they treated me like I was a leper.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and it was an on-the-job accident, for sure.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. But they -- you know, I don't know. I had to fight for everything I got. And that just made it more difficult for me.

[01:22:32]KAREN BREWSTER: Were there good things about the job?

JEREMY WATSON: About my job?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I mean, this is -- unfortunately, it ended in a negative way, but --

JEREMY WATSON: No, I told you. Of course, there were good things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: I've got nothing but great memories about the job. It's just the way I was treated after I got hurt.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah. Um.

JEREMY WATSON: That caused me -- and even then, after that happened, Toni Horton, do you know her?

KAREN BREWSTER: I know her name. Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: She's the cultural landscape person out of Anchorage. She asked me to do -- help her write the cultural landscape report for the Chilkoot.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: And then I started working here in the summers at Cultural Landscape Division of the Park Service. And I did a seven-year report at Crater Lake on restoration of the historic road.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. That was out of the regional office here?

JEREMY WATSON: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. [01:23:22]Can you describe what a cultural landscape report is?

JEREMY WATSON: It's looking at all the cultural features, the design features, like around the road at Crater Lake, all the stonework, all the turnouts that were -- that were designed by

a landscape architect. During -- During the Depression, there was uh, Civilian Conservation Corps that did all those trails.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: Did all those roads and trails, built most of the major national parks' roads.

KAREN BREWSTER: What about one for Klondike and Skagway? What's a landscape report there cover?

JEREMY WATSON: Looking at the trail itself, looking at the bridges. Looking at all the construction features.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: We never got to complete it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Does it look at the artifacts that got left behind?

JEREMY WATSON: In a rudimentary manner. That's more of an archeological study. That's more Karl's thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: We identify where they were, but mostly we're looking at the historical features of the park.

[01:24:15]KAREN BREWSTER: So when you were working on the trail, did you come across archeological features, and you had to stop and call --

JEREMY WATSON: All the time. Then we would call up Karl, and tell him to come up and check it out. We found all kinds of stuff.

KAREN BREWSTER: Anything in particular you remember that was pretty neat?

JEREMY WATSON: No, nothing -- nothing that seminal. 'Cause, you know, we found a lot of horseshoes and a lot of old garbage -- we found a lot of old garbage dumps. A lot of old cans and stuff that they just left.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:24:47]Do you know anything about the White Pass Trail? That side of things?

JEREMY WATSON: No, we were supposed to do that, but we never did. They wanted us to build a trail into that, which I was all for. I would've loved to have done that, but it just never happened.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's what I was wondering is, what your opinion of having a trail in the White Pass side?

JEREMY WATSON: I think by now that there's so little left there, and it'd be so expensive to build a trail into that site. You know, there's plenty of work to do on the Chilkoot. And then you have the logistics of getting people in and out of there, and then you'd have to have a ranger down in there. It'd be very expensive, and I don't know how much is left.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, even if there's nothing left, just the idea of, it was a historic route.

JEREMY WATSON: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And if that should be pre --

JEREMY WATSON: But are you willing to -- they were never willing to put the money into it. I would've had to hire a completely different crew.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. I was just thinking if -- does the landscape there allow a trail to be --

JEREMY WATSON: It's very difficult. It's a lot of brush. I mean, you have to realize that all the valley before you get to Canyon City, that's all second-growth timber. They clear-cut all of that in the '50's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: It's growing back. We'd see it every year, growing the tin -- the -- the conifers growing back up. It's kind of cool to watch it sort of come back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: But, you know, they -- they had -- and a lot of those early folks got most of the artifacts. I mean, there wasn't a lot. I mean, they were carrying just basic, fundamental stuff that they got. [01:26:31] And then Roy and I did the -- we built the enclosure at the cemetery there in Dyea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: That was kind of cool. We'd just sit there with the dead for, like, you know, a month, building an enclosure around it. Ate our lunch.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you talk to them?

JEREMY WATSON: All the time. Roy'd always go, "Well, let's go see Unk Noy. Unk No." I'd go, "Who the hell is Unk No?" "You know, unknown." Yeah, we'd sit in there all the time and just -- you know, you could feel their energy. There's energy up there, especially at Sheep Camp. There's a lot of -- there's a lot of stuff going on at Sheep Camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Why particularly at Sheep Camp, do you think?

JEREMY WATSON: Well, that was the main camp, before you went to the pass.

KAREN BREWSTER: With the summit, yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Not that many people stayed at Canyon City very long. They were in a hurry to get over the pass, and Sheep Camp was like the last stop before you hit the summit. But there was a lot of shit going on up there. Like some of the guys liked living up there. But Roy and I hated it. We just wouldn't stay. We'd rather hike back to the camp. "You know, I mean, you're nuts. Man, it's another six miles down there." I'd go, "I don't care, we're going." And you got twenty-two hours of daylight, so it didn't matter.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: And we knew that trail so well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, you must've.

JEREMY WATSON: We used to go out, we'd run down the trail sometimes going out. Those were good days.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [01:28:02] And then I know you worked on the building restoration stuff, but we don't -- I don't know if you want to talk about any of that.

JEREMY WATSON: No, I didn't do a lot on that. We did the Lynch & Kennedy. We laid the floor, all the floor, in there. I did -- I didn't do a lot of that. Roy did a lot of it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. He talked about it in his interview.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, Roy did a lot of it. Roy's an amazingly gifted -- He's got -- someone's who got an amazing skill set. He can do a lot of things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you -- you must, also. I mean, the fact that you did all that work on the trail, and figured it out, and --

JEREMY WATSON: Well, the two of us together was just like, you know, I mean, we were like brothers. I mean, we never -- we never had a bad word between us in twenty years.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.

JEREMY WATSON: And we lived together all the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: And we lived together more than he and his wife did, you know.

[01:28:48]And Roy had never left Skagway. Only one other time. He worked on the pipeline 'til he met Doreen. You haven't met Doreen?

KAREN BREWSTER: I haven't met her yet. I've emailed with her.

JEREMY WATSON: Doreen's a great woman.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Roy had never been out of Skagway 'til he met Doreen. Now he's been all over the world. She takes him everywhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good. Well, that if he wants to do it, that's great.

JEREMY WATSON: Oh, no. I -- I was the best man at his wedding, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's cool. [01:29:15]Um, well, I know that you are not feeling so great, so if there's anything else, any other stories or things you wanted to make sure --

JEREMY WATSON: No, there's a thousand stories I haven't -- haven't gotten to, but, I mean, you can imagine in twenty years out there that there's so much stuff that happened. I mean, just getting -- building the base camp, and building -- putting in a water system, and then having a filtration system for the water. I mean, it was like, you know, later on it was high living up there. I mean, we had -- we had glass windows and a roof, and we had running water at the sink.

KAREN BREWSTER: By what year was that that you got --

JEREMY WATSON: I think it was like, 1988, started '89. Put in a spring box, and then ran about a thousand feet of -- no, more than that. Probably a couple thousand feet of pipe, PVC pipe, that carried our water from the spring box.

KAREN BREWSTER: What's a spring box?

JEREMY WATSON: It's a cedar box that the -- you have a filtration little pipe that comes out. It's got a filter on the end of it. We'd lay it in the creek, and then it comes -- it goes into the box, fills the box up with water, and then the water, gravity fed, goes down to our camp.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

JEREMY WATSON: So the spring box is like up here, and our camp was down here, so the water would just run downhill. And then we had to fix it all the time because the bears would come and chew it -- would chew -- they loved to chew on the pipe.

KAREN BREWSTER: I've heard porcupines in other places chew the pipe.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. I don't -- I don't recall ever seeing any porcupines, but --

KAREN BREWSTER: I know in other places.

JEREMY WATSON: The bears certainly do.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

JEREMY WATSON: They liked that and bar oil for the chainsaws.

KAREN BREWSTER: Really?

JEREMY WATSON: They loved to bite into that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh. I would think that would not be tasty.

JEREMY WATSON: I think it was something about the viscosity of the oil they liked.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

[01:31:10]JEREMY WATSON: But it was -- it was, um -- I miss it every time -- every time I think about it. I wish I could go back. I wish I had never left. The only thing that want -- made me ever want to leave was -- was the accident.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I'm sorry that happened.

JEREMY WATSON: Roy got -- Roy got tired of it, but --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and it is, I say, such hard work, even with the accident, it is the kind of thing that you end up timing out of. Your body just can't do it anymore.

JEREMY WATSON: No, I mean, when I quit, I was what, I was forty-seven years old. No, I was older than that. My last year I think I was forty-nine. So I did it from twenty-three to forty-nine.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good. But I say, yeah, that kind of work, bodies are just going to give out eventually.

JEREMY WATSON: Well, my knees hurt a lot.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But it makes you strong, too. I mean, you're strong -- you're stronger than you'll ever be any other time in your life.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep. [01:32:13]But it's great, at that age you went back to school and got a master's and a PhD.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I mean, I was um -- I really loved -- I loved school, too, but I really miss Alaska. I don't really like living in Seattle. There's no real sense of community here, not like it is in Alaska.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Alaska's a special place.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and Skagway's a small town compared to Seattle being a big city.

JEREMY WATSON: It is, but people are -- you know, they look out for you there. Um, you know, when I had my surgery for my cancer, all my -- my buddies that worked for me at Glacier? They came here and stayed with -- with my dog while I was in the hospital, and they stayed with me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nice.

JEREMY WATSON: Roy came here and stayed with me for three weeks. I mean, that's the sort of camaraderie we had, is that people who came when I needed them were all the guys I worked with trails on.

KAREN BREWSTER: I think there's something about that working as a team in really harsh conditions.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, it's similar to being in the military in Vietnam.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: It's the same sort of esprit de corps, and, you know, you got everybody's six. You're always watching out for each other.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Which we always did. You know, there was no -- there's no egos involved with our work. It's when we got to town was where the egos came in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [01:33:33]Well, and as you say, there's also safety. You gotta watch out for each other.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, there were safety issues all the time. It was dangerous work. We've got more than -- Roy and I both have got more than one scar from working on that trail.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I'm surprised that, yeah, somebody didn't get washed down the river or you guys never had to -- somebody didn't have to be medevaced out by helicopter.

JEREMY WATSON: Well, I got washed down the river more than once, but we never -- we -- we medevaced out a lot of hikers, but none of us.

[01:34:05]KAREN BREWSTER: So, yeah, when you -- now they have rangers stationed along the trail.

JEREMY WATSON: They always did.

KAREN BREWSTER: They did even when you were there working?

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah. Yeah, some of them were good. Some of them were -- some of them rarely left the cabin.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But they had a ranger at Sheep Camp, and then they had -- they would go up and back. They'd go up to the pass every day and then come back, but there was no ranger in Canyon City. And a lot of 'em were afraid of bears, terrified of 'em. We used to have the bears come and sit. When we were building the suspension bridge, these big old black bears used to come and just -- there's a little pond we had built a little bridge over that before you got to the -- a little rivulet that came where the overflow in the river on the stream, I should say, and they'd just lay in the water and watch us work. And we never bothered them. They never bothered us. So it was pretty cool. But they'd come through our camp all the time. You could see their tracks in the morning. But they never messed with us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Mutual respect.

JEREMY WATSON: Absolutely. [01:35:13]I love bears. They're -- they're amazing animals, but -- I knew the guy -- you heard of the guy that got -- he thought he was -- he thought he could commune with the bears.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: I actually knew a guy that, um, that funded him. He was out of LA. He had this -- called Environment Now, and he gave that guy some money to study bears. And I met with him one time. He starts telling me, "Yeah, I can talk to bears. They understand me, and I -- they'd never hurt me." I go, "Don't say that, man. You don't ever know what a bear's going to do. It's an animal."

KAREN BREWSTER: It's a wild animal.

JEREMY WATSON: You can never take anything a bear does for granted. And I said, "You may get away with it for a while, but it's going to catch up with you." I told him that specifically. But one time I met him in person, 'cause he was real arrogant about it, and I just said, "One day it's not going to work for you." Sure as hell, it didn't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and you guys are lucky on the trail that it didn't catch up with any of you.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, absolutely, but we were not that arrogant about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. Right.

JEREMY WATSON: About animals. You know, that you're going to go lay down next to them and their cubs and -- Never felt that you don't do that with animals, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: You have to respect them. And it was unfortunate that it cost him his life and then the woman that he loved.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

JEREMY WATSON: Her life as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[01:36:38]JEREMY WATSON: Oh, that's another -- I'll tell you that great story before I go is that, they -- one year, I can't -- I don't remember what year it was, but Ted Stevens was still alive then, and you know Brooks Camp?

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm-um. Oh, Brooks Camp? Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. At Katmai.

JEREMY WATSON: Brooks Camp out -- yeah, Brooks Camp out on the Katmai.

KAREN BREWSTER: I thought you were saying, like, it was somebody's name. No, I've been to Brooks Camp, yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: So we -- they -- they brought us up from -- 'cause we were the only real construction crew in the state for the Park Service, so Stevens decided he wanted to build a bear-viewing platform for his congressional buddies to come and hang out at Brooks Camp. So they flew us up. Roy and I and Mike Beierly and John Warder, um, to build this thing for them. And it cost them tens of thousands of dollars just to get us there. You know how much it costs to get out there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But then they had to bring a barge out with all the materials that we needed. And so they brought this -- all this barge. It took us, like, a month to build this thing. And we had to leave the Chilkoot. And there was one guy that we left on the Chilkoot just to keep the brush on the lower end. But -- but we worked, shit, ten, twelve hours a day on this thing to get it done. And the bears were just starting to come down, um, and so we get it -- we get it all built. We get the gate up and everything, and, you know, we're looking around, and, yeah, this is all right. So Stevens flies in in a float plane, gets out of the float plane, and, um, the guy in charge of Brooks Camp comes out, and Stevens says, "Looks good, man." Gets back on the float plane and takes off. Spent like, five minutes there. So we get our final gear, and we're getting -- getting ready to go, and he goes -- the guy that's the head of the park there, he just goes, "This is gonna be great for the tourists. They can be up here. The bears won't -- won't bother this place at all, and, you know, they won't come around this." Because it was quite -- quite a bit off the ground.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: You know, I think it was about eight feet off the ground. [01:38:51]We start to walk down a trail there to go across -- I don't know if it's still there or not. I haven't been there, shit, since we did it. Start to walk back to the campground, and the bear came up and ripped the gate down. And then about three of them got up there, and they put their paws up, and they're standing on the rail, looking at us. And it was fantastic.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.

JEREMY WATSON: 'Cause the bear viewing platform was for the bears viewing us.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's right.

JEREMY WATSON: It was fantastic, man. We got the biggest kick out of that. John was just like, look -- get those bears out of there. I go, "Oh no, man. Don't -- don't mess with those bears. It's great."

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.

JEREMY WATSON: I got a picture of that, so it was pretty cool.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good. That's good. I've been there, and there was a bear-viewing platform up at the falls.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't know if it's the same one you built.

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, we put it in, shit, twenty -- I don't know, fifteen years ago. More than that. Fifteen years --

KAREN BREWSTER: Before 20 --

JEREMY WATSON: Yeah, I don't remember what year it was.

KAREN BREWSTER: I can't remember --

JEREMY WATSON: And then we took a -- we hiked into the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. That was fantastic.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I can't remember what year I was there. I'd have to figure that out, but --

JEREMY WATSON: But it was great to see those bears just rip that big old gate off, and they're up there with their paws -- their paws on the railing, just looking at us. Like going -- saying, "Suckers, thanks. We like this."

[01:40:04]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that's great. There was something else I was going to ask you, and now I can't remember what it was. I got distracted by the bears at Katmai, but that's ok.

JEREMY WATSON: The bears at Katmai were fan -- those were big bears.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Those were brown bears. Coastal bears.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: We don't get 'em that big as --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, in Skagway you get the brown bears, they're just not as --

JEREMY WATSON: We get grizzlies.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: They're not as big.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: Lot of black bears, but not as many -- not like those bears.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: They're immense.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

JEREMY WATSON: But they're great animals. Nothing like 'em. And when I was at Glacier, we had a lot of -- we had a lot of bears at Glacier.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Ok, well.

JEREMY WATSON: Ok, I better get home to my dog.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I appreciate all your time today. Thank you.