Oral History Cover Sheet

Name: David Klein
Date of Interview: March 20, 2014
Location of Interview: Home of David Klein in Fairbanks, Alaska
Interviewer: Karen Brewster and Pat Valkenburg

Brief Summary of Interview: This interview is for the Wildlife Society's COWCH [Conserving our Wildlife Conservation Heritage] Program. Dave talks about his early life, joining the military during World War II, working in Alaska, going to undergraduate school at University of Connecticut, going back to Alaska for graduate school, his various experiences in Alaska, getting his PhD, jobs he has held, and eventually becoming Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Leader at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He also talks about his international connections and contributions he has made during his time in Alaska.

[BEGIN TAPE 1]

KAREN BREWSTER: This is Karen Brewster, and today is March 20th 2014. I'm here with Dave Klein and Pat Valkenburg at Dave's house in Fairbanks, Alaska and this is for Wildlife Society's Conserving Our Conservation History or Heritage Project. Thank you, Dave. Just to get us started, so for people who don't know you, we'll do a little background, so tell me when and where you were born.

DAVID KLEIN: I was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts in 1927. And family moved to Hartland, Vermont, partly related to the Depression. And my father was working for Johnson Arms and Cycle in Fitchburg and he was laid off. And so we moved to Hartland, Vermont. Close to my grandfather's -- my mother's father's farm, a small subsistence dairy farm, where it was good to be close to that farm during the Depression when we could get things from there. But we also lived in a small -- in Hartland, in an old farmstead where we were able to have animals, chickens, and occasional calves to raise for veal, and geese, and harvest our own maple syrup, etc, etc. And then I went to a four-room schoolhouse there in Hartland for the first two elementary years. And then we moved to Connecticut. I think it was the late 1930's when my father got a job there. He was a machinist and he got a job at a company that was making helicopter parts for Sikorsky helicopters, which were becoming useful and functional. And it was pre-war years when it was realized that helicopters would probably have a role to play in war.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did you have siblings?

DAVID KLEIN: Yup. Older brother, two years older. And an older sister, six years older.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, what was your childhood like?

DAVID KLEIN: It was very -- For me, it was like nirvana. It was rural New England. Hilly, pine forest, and small farms, and small village. And I didn't know what city life was like, but I knew what it was like from my parents. And they knew that they preferred rural living. And my brother and I particularly we had a hard time when we moved to Connecticut. My dad was working in Hartford, in the factory, so we got – we moved into the only place available for rental, was a -- one of these apartment complexes with six apartments in one building. And intense human presence. And we had to learn to live with cultural diversity, too, because there were French Canadians living close by who went to the Catholic schools, and we went to the public schools. And we had to walk several blocks before the days of school buses. And in our schools, we were kidded, my brother and I, because we talked funny. We talked like hicks. Which we were.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what were your parents' names?

DAVID KLEIN: My dad was Ferdinand, no middle initial. Ferdinand Klein. And his parents had immigrated from Switzerland about -- His father was of German heritage and his mother was of French heritage, but they were living in Switzerland. They moved to New York City, and that's where my father was born. My mother was born in, I think, Syracuse, New York, and her parents were from – both parents were from -- I think they were born in Canada and the US, but they were of English heritage.

KAREN BREWSTER: And her first name was?

DAVID KLEIN: Norma, and her maiden name was Peverley. P-E-V-E-R-L-E-Y.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, we're going to jump ahead a little bit to you going to college. And what happened there and getting your educational training.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I -- well first of all we -- in the city, Hartford, we stayed there for about four years and found a better living situation with a house we rented with a big yard, and an orchard, and the landlord had bees, which was interesting. And so it was not a bad place for my brother and I. And then we moved -- parents finally were financially able to buy an old house and some land in Buckland, Connecticut, which was near Manchester. And so I finished up my elementary school there in a four-room schoolhouse again. And then went to Manchester High, which was -- Manchester was where the Cheney [Brothers] silk mills existed. It was quite a nice town, and diversity of people, mostly all Europeans, but different European countries. And so the -- I went to school there, and got out of high school. Graduated from high school in 1945. We were still at war in the Pacific with the Japanese, and young men at that age, 18, were 1A for the draft. And I enlisted in the Navy to -- in the flight training program to avoid being drafted, probably. But, the whole family, my brother was in the Air Force and my sister was in the WACS, and during the war, so the war in Europe was very important to family. There wasn't any question about serving in the war at that time. So then, when I got out of the -- when the war was over

KAREN BREWSTER: So you went into the Navy flight training.

DAVID KLEIN: Yup.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

DAVID KLEIN: But then the war was over six months after I was in, so we had the choice of staying in, continue on with the flight training, and getting your commission and becoming a pilot, but you had to stay in for six more years after you finally got your commission. Which I didn't -- I wasn't interested in the military after the war was over, and so, I got out. And when my time was up, and came back to Connecticut, and didn't really know -- I had a little GI Bill from spending time in the Navy. And all my school buddies were pretty much in the university and taking advantage of – they -- most of them had been in the Service short time, like me, and so -- But I wasn't ready to do that. I didn't know really what I wanted to do yet. Used to think that farming was – I liked the farming life, and working with animals and growing things, but then I realized that I was also -- had broader interests than just living on the farm. And I was becoming interested in the things that were on the farm, my grandfather's farm, like the trout stream, and the wildlife that would come. The deer that would come to eat his apples. And I realized that I was more interested in general ecology. But also I was interested in the landscape and the flora and the forests, the hardwood forests, and the transition from hardwood to conifers up in New England. Forestry was another interest, and so I got a job with the state forestry department in Connecticut, working -- doing woods work in one of the state forests mainly. And I was able to live in a cabin that they had, that I put a wood stove in, and I liked that kind of adventurous life on my own. It was about forty miles away from my home, where the rest of my family was living. And then in that working with field crews in forest was enjoyable. We did a lot of -- we worked all winter long. And thinned pine plantations, did some logging in hardwood forests. And so I learned some good skills, including how to use an axe properly, and sharpen it. And Swede saws we used. But we also, when we were logging in hardwood forests, we had a small Cat, and a giant two-person chain saw, which was a disaster if you were on the power end of it because the exhaust came up in your face and you had this vibrating mass that you had to hold. And you could only handle it for about a half an hour and you had to trade off with somebody else. So then, that was -- I liked that kind of woods work. But all of these other guys that were about my age, veterans mostly, that were working there, two of us got the idea of coming to Alaska. Because the Alaska Highway we heard, was completed, and had just been completed, and we wanted to see the country a little more. In the Navy, I only got to the East Coast, and Chicago. I didn't get to see much of the West. I was already focused on liking mountain areas in New England. I really liked New Hampshire and Vermont because they were more mountainous than Massachusetts and Connecticut. So, we – two of us -- I rebuilt an old Model A Ford roadster that was in pretty good condition after it was rebuilt. The engine was rebuilt, and we – two of us drove to Alaska in 1947. And with the intent to work in Alaska in the summertime and then go back. But I didn't have any specific goals, other than to come and see more of the country. And so, then in Alaska, Ed Waas [sp?] was the fellow that came with me. He was of Polish heritage. He lived in Middletown, Connecticut. He had been in the Army during the war,

and had worked in a railroad switch yard, and so he got a job right away in Fairbanks working at the -- out at Ladd Field, which was former to Fort Wainwright. And switching engines and what. So he had a good job for the summer. And he worked for the whole summer then he flew back home. I wasn't so fortunate. I wanted to work – find a -- some job that would get me out into the field, out in the country, and I'd hoped -- I heard about the geological survey doing -- having field groups up in the National Petroleum Reserve, and -- but by the time we got -- arrived in Fairbanks, it was in about mid-June, and they'd already headed out into the field. And so, that was not an option. And I figured, well, firefighting would be a good option, but it was a wet spring, so there -- So I finally – aching -- I was trying to extend what limited cash I had, living in the worst bunkhouse available, the only bunkhouse available that was -- didn't cost very much a night. And struggling along. And met a guy who was a builder, but he had over-wintered in the Brooks Range, Tony Butler. He had wintered in the Brooks Range with an old timer, Frank Young, who was married to a native woman from Bettles. But they had over-wintered, and they trapped. He was a prospector, and he trapped – they trapped and they lived at Wild Lake. So Tony had to over-winter with them. And he was fascinated with the trapping and then he saw the potential, which he thought was a good potential at the time, of maybe building a hunting and fishing lodge on the lake. And so he offered that opportunity if we worked with him, in construction in Fairbanks. Mainly, we were putting siding on houses, and some roofing, and some interior work. And sub-contracting from other people. And the end of summer we would go up to Wild Lake and build the first cabin on the lake for this hunting lodge. Well, that all sounded great to me from my limited experience in New England of real wild country, and wilderness, and this was it. I was here, in Alaska, and realized that, man, this was going to be -- I was really lucky. So we got up there, and it took a little while because --

KAREN BREWSTER: So that was working – Tony Butler is who you worked for?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. So, there was another young guy from Oklahoma who joined up -- he and I joined up in --Tony, we were handy with the hammer and tools, but he taught us how to put on the siding, and had the tools necessary. And I had the only transportation available, my Model A Ford. And so we drove around town and did the siding work on the houses. And then we planned to fly up to Wild Lake at the end of summer. We had a little problem because Tony had a habit of spending the money in the evenings when he'd go out and --

KAREN BREWSTER: On liquid refreshments?

DAVID KLEIN: On liquid refreshments, but he liked women a lot, too. So we finally went on strike, and refused to continue working unless he made a real commitment to save enough money so we could go up into Wild Lake and the Brooks Range. And we did that. And finally. And then about, a little over a month up on Wild Lake, built a rustic cabin, and did some terrific lake trout fishing and – did a little hunting, and mountain sheep and moose. And I fell in love, of course, with Alaska. And especially the Brooks Range. But after we came back, we had more -- we still had to pay off some of the charter aircraft costs. And we flew out of Week's Field by the way, and landed at Bettles

with a Norseman, and then we transferred to a small Cub [Super Cub airplane] to fly -- shuttle our stuff up to Wild Lake. And same coming back. Well no, we came back all the way in Cubs, I guess. But, that was an interesting experience flying in those days. And it was, I was living on a high because, it was better than I imagined, in Alaska, and of course it wasn't Fairbanks itself, it was the country. And so, I had to work. We had to go back to work and it was in October now, early October and it was not very comfortable putting on cedar shakes. I remember on a house, when it was down around ten below during the night. In the morning it was -- we didn't have nail guns in those days, you had to do it with your fingers and wear gloves that -- you had to have some way to warm up your hands again. And when that was paid off, then I realized that this scheme of a hunting fishing lodge, which was tempting, but it was -- Tony was not a good businessman, we realized. And it was probably twenty years before the right opportunity to do that, at least. So then I had decided by now, wildlife management, studying wildlife management, which had a good pro --there was a good program at the University of Connecticut and I learned --

PAT VALKENBURG: Dave, how did you even find out about wildlife management as a subject at that time?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I learned a little bit about -- in Alaska, about game wardens and wildlife -- but I -- I made an effort to find out about wildlife management in the other states, and so I read things about it. But I wasn't an ardent reader, I was – I -- game wardens, you know, was getting in that close direction, but I realized that if you had a university degree, you could be more than a game warden, you could be a biologist working. And I was -- by this time I was focused on ecology and especially mountain ecology, and Arctic and northern ecology. And so I was interested in plants as well as animals and -- but, alpine. I fell in love with that in the Brooks Range. And so, then I looked into – and the university didn't have -- they had one biology teacher.

KAREN BREWSTER: The university here in Fairbanks.

DAVID KLEIN: In Fairbanks. And it was only like, 250-300 students total. And so it was a small, just barely -- and changed the name to a university from School of Agriculture and Mining or something like that. And there was nothing offered there, and but I'd -- I was getting probably homesick, too, to go back and see my family. My father had died while I was in the Navy, so my mother and sister and brother were still there, in New England. So I definitely wanted to go back. And so I needed the money. And I couldn't just drive back in the beginning of winter, so I had to find a job. And I went out to the experimental farm because I had the experience with my grandfather's farm and I thought that would be nice. And had the interest there as well. And fortunately they had a position for farm worker, and I worked with the dairy. They had a dairy herd then, and I was assistant to this dairyman, which when I -- you know I got to clean out after the cows and help with the milking and help with the feeding. And it was very enjoyable work for me. And it turns out, it was -- although they didn't pay much, they provided a building with a little wood stove in it and they had a small frame building that had been used for workers in the summer time and I was able to live there. Put a bunk in there and a stove, and

stayed there. And the it was -- And I had to work early in the morning, for milking and the evening for milking. And so I could put in about eight hours and still have the middle of the day available, so I realized if I was going back to Connecticut I should bone up a little bit on courses that I had not done so well in high school on, like math and chemistry. And so I took some so-called bonehead courses that were designed especially for helping with things like algebra and what. And because I would have to take exams to get into the University of Connecticut, even though I was a resident there. My grades were not good enough to get in -- high school grades were not good enough, without taking exams. So I did that. And it was convenient, and it was not a bad way to spend the winter in interior Alaska because I had some sociality with the students with the students at the university in the classes I was taking, and the people at the experiment farm that I was working with were good people. And I enjoyed the work, and it was a healthy environment. And I put up the -- put the Model A up on blocks in the shed at the farm, and drained the radiator and took the battery out, and lived fine.

KAREN BREWSTER: So when did you go back to start college?

DAVID KLEIN: The next spring, after -- the plan was to leave as soon as the semester was over. And I had lined up a couple of students to drive with me over the highway.

KAREN BREWSTER: You have a phone call.

DAVID KLEIN: Let it ring.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm going to pause it. Alright, we're back. So, you leave Alaska to go back to Connecticut for college.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. We were delayed in leaving because it was a rapid melt off and flooding and the road was washed out between Fairbanks and Delta. And the Alaska Highway the bridges were out. So we were delayed about 10 days. And we finally got to Whitehorse, and the bridge still wasn't repaired, a major bridge on the highway south of Whitehorse. We had to spend 2 or 3 days there, which was interesting because we were there when they launched the river boats, and the whole village came out and watching that operation was really fun.

PAT VALKENBURG: The sternwheelers were still running on the Yukon River?

DAVID KLEIN: Yup, right, yup. And so they made a good splash when they knocked their chalks out, and they'd grease up the timbers so they would slide down. And they did. It was nice. And then there was one gal, a student, that had to fly from Whitehorse because she -- had to be at her sister's wedding, and she had some -- her parents wired her some money so she could fly down. And so the other guy that was with me, he was going to Portland, and so we took off and went over the highway. And on the way up on the highway, we had no problems whatsoever, no flat tires. We had one flat tire with a nail in it, but everything worked fine, almost. And going back, it was -- we're doing fine, and the car was running fine, and then it started running on three cylinders. And it took

awhile to figure out why. It turned out that one of the pistons had broken just above the rings, and it was pushed up on top -- the top of the piston was pushed up the top so it wouldn't take in the gas and wouldn't fire. So it was only firing on three cylinders. So we had to take the head off and see what was going on. Take the top out and put some metal over the thing to try to keep gas from working its way in there. And it wasn't too successful in that, but we were still able to go on three cylinders over the steepest part, that we did a lot of gearing down, and then it was downhill, too. We couldn't find anyplace that would have any possibility of helping us until we got to Fort Nelson where there was a post office, a telephone, and an airport. And they -- we got advice to call in to them and get the part sent up by the mail plane after three or four days, which we did. And there was a garage that had a ramp outside, and the mechanic was on a -- on a drunk, but he -- we talked to him and he said we could use his tools, but -- if we needed them, we pretty much had our own tools. But we used the ramp and that was a challenge because right in the middle of the mosquito season. But we -- when and the piston came, we put it back in and put the engine back together again. And then took off down the highway, and we made it to International Falls in -- it's in northern Idaho, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: Montana.

PAT VALKENBURG: In Minnesota?

DAVID KLEIN: No.

PAT VALKENBURG: International Falls, Minnesota.

KAREN BREWSTER: I think you mean Great Falls. Great Falls is in Montana.

PAT VALKENBURG: Or Great Falls --

DAVID KLEIN: No, there's a -- At any rate, we made it into, I think either it was northern Idaho, and then we were going to -- we were headed for Spokane, and then Portland.

PAT VALKENBURG: You were going that way, you weren't headed directly back East.

DAVID KLEIN: No, because I had planned to go down through California and visit Yosemite and see --

PAT VALKENBURG: Oh, you were going to take the long way home.

DAVID KLEIN: I was going to take the long way home. And back through the south, which wasn't so great. At any rate --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I'm going to move us along and get you into your education background in wildlife.

DAVID KLEIN: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what you studied and who your mentors were.

DAVID KLEIN: Ok. Back in Connecticut, I got back there and I decided that I wanted to do a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. And, which was, the wildlife program was in the Forestry and Wildlife Department, so it was primarily forestry, but they had a wildlife program there.

PAT VALKENBURG: So, you did your undergraduate work there as well?

DAVID KLEIN: University of Connecticut?

PAT VALKENBURG: Connecticut?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Not as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. So undergraduate was University of Connecticut, then master's was here.

PAT VALKENBURG: Ok. You finished it here.

DAVID KLEIN: And I did the master's up here. So then I did that -- the undergraduate at the University of Connecticut. There actually had been one of the first co-op units had been in Connecticut, but for political reasons after a couple of years, the state didn't support it. But it got the university started in the wildlife program. So it was a good program, and Franklin McCamey was the wildlife prof there. And he was top notch as far as I was concerned. Good advisor and he talked me into doing a honors thesis and studying the ecology of a cedar swamp that was only about four miles from the campus. And it was fascinating to me because a cedar swamp had the sort of habitat that had its own place -- one of the few places in Connecticut, especially that part of Connecticut, where there were any snowshoe hares. There were rabbits, cottontail rabbits, but there were snowshoe hares there. And it was -- few houses around it, but the cedar swamp -- But it was a fascinating place and I learned a lot in the process, and it was a good project.

KAREN BREWSTER: It sounds like that maybe is what got you inspired to do field work. So is that sort of your first experience with fieldwork?

DAVID KLEIN: No -- Yeah sort of, but I mean, I didn't have to be inspired I don't think. I was interested in --

PAT VALKENBURG: You were pretty well hooked by the Brooks Range by that time.

DAVID KLEIN: I was an ecologic --understanding ecological systems was good training for me because it was broad, and I could also do things like, build snares to catch a couple of rabbits -- snowshoe hares to make study skins for the university, comparative

anatomy lab. And you know I could -- I'd been in Boy Scouts, and so that was fascinating to be able to capture animals without using firearms or guns. So yeah, I built some spring sets with bent over willows. Don't work too well in real super cold country, but the willows pop up when you set the trigger and you had to loop around the -- you could make it all out of willow usually. And so I did get a couple of hares and made study skins out of those and -- But did studies on those when there was a little bit of snow, tracking and what areas they were using and why and what -- Because around the edge of the swamp was the transition with -- into broad leaf forest and shrubby zone, and then some then into either some agriculture and some houses.

PAT VALKENBURG: Were there deer there that -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: There were deer there, but not very many. They were -- there was heavy poaching of deer in Connecticut. And when I worked in the State Forests, there were deer there and you're lucky if you saw one. But you'd see sign. And but yeah, they were poached pretty heavily, so the population didn't get started.

KAREN BREWSTER: So after four years at the University of Connecticut, you came to Alaska for graduate school?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, but it was a lesson for -- I mean, I was able to finish in about three and a half years because I had some – a couple of credits transferred from the University of Alaska and some military credits, as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

DAVID KLEIN: But then – during -- while I was -- as an undergraduate student there, when I was a junior or senior, the Korean War started. And I was suddenly 1A, which I thought that -- for the draft board. And I thought I had served my time in the Second World War. But I had only actually been -- had one year of active duty, and they required to have, under the draft law, during the Korean War, you had to have two years of military service. And so I was drafted. So I was able to get a deferment as a student. And -- and then I finished the undergraduate, I wanted to go on for a master's, I realized it was important to get a master's degree for a good position -- for getting a good position, and where -- even though you never made big money there. But so I was able to apply and get admitted to the graduate program that had been established in 1950, the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Program at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. And it was the University of Alaska period, at that time, because it was the only campus in the state of the state system. And I was able to get an extension on my deferment for the master's degree. So then I did the master's degree through the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

PAT VALKENBURG: And who was the unit leader at that time?

DAVID KLEIN: The unit leader, the first unit leader was Neil Hosley who was a sort of senior wildlifer from -- I think he had worked in Michigan and he had done a lot of work

with moose habitat studies. And he had published quite a bit and had a good reputation and he came and it was -- He was the one who accepted me, largely because of my Alaskan experience, and interests and motivation, and -- and I had a good academic record in college that made up for the poor one in high school.

KAREN BREWSTER: So why did you decide to come to the University of Alaska if their program was so new?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, it was Alaska, one, and I figured it had to be good in Alaska, and it would be -- and I had my heart on Alaska. But I applied to other places, too. I think, the University -- Utah State, I think, and at Idaho. Which, I had checked in -- and I was definitely interested in -- as an alternatives, the mountains, the Rockies, the North Pacific Northwest, if I couldn't come -- get funding to come to Alaska. So, unfortunately, in one regard, Hosley replied, and said yeah they would like to have me come but their funding wouldn't -- they didn't have any funding for the first year. And so, they could come, and find a job or something, but they would have a stipend for the second year. And so then I -- I had been short listed for a position at both the Utah and Idaho, and the Idaho was working with sage grouse, I think. And the Utah, I forgot what it was, and -- but I had a positive response from Idaho saying that they probably would have the funding and that they were narrowing it down and that they would like to have me come. But this was after -- just before I got the response from Alaska from Neil Hosley and -- So, they would have had full funding if I went to Idaho, but I figured, no, I'll go to Alaska and find work or something. And so, I wrote to both Utah and Idaho, and said I decided to go to Alaska, which I did, and --

KAREN BREWSTER: So did you already have in mind that you wanted to study deer and caribou and musk ox?

DAVID KLEIN: No, but I knew -- I knew that I would not have free choice, that I might have to accept what was available. But on the other hand, I had been hooked on alpine ecology, and certainly I thought, you know, alpine ungulates would be -- I would be very happy working with them. But I was interested in the plant animal relationship. And I had good – good -- several botany courses, systematic and other, and was very interested in botany and plant ecology, as well. And so, I thought it would work out well. But fortunately, Neil Hosley, who was the unit leader -- I told him yes, I would come, and I don't know whether I said anything about -- I said I would have to find work, but then I said I would like – if he knew of any work for the summer, then I could come earlier. Well, then I got a telegram saying there was this position as a field assistant for the -- in the Kenai Moose Range, where Dave Spencer was the refuge manager and the only other paid position was maintenance man. And they had this position for a summer temporary. But I had to be up there in like five days. So, I figured, wow, a job, that'd be great, and so I flew up to Anchorage. Borrowed some money from my mother, and flew up to Anchorage, and -- and then Dave Spencer flew up from Kenai and picked me up after a day or two, and went back to the Kenai and spent that first summer. And that was, that was very important for me, and what my career and education.

PAT VALKENBURG: How did you fly up to Alaska, Dave? I'm just curious.

DAVID KLEIN: So -- There was a DC-6 that flew from Seattle to Annette Island.

PAT VALKENBURG: Okay, yeah --

DAVID KLEIN: -- and refueled, and then continued on up to Anchorage. And of course, the cross country, I forget where I flew out of. I probably flew out of Hartford to New York or someplace else, or Chicago.

PAT VALKENBURG: Probably also in a DC-6 at that time?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Right. And so --

KAREN BREWSTER: So working with Dave Spencer at the Kenai [Moose] Range was important for you?

DAVID KLEIN: It was terrific, because he – I mean, he was really shorthanded there, and he had as refuge manager his wife – he was married. They hadn't started a family yet, but had that in mind, I'm sure. And, but he was such a good pilot and – that -- And he had a Grumman Widgeon there, based in Kenai, and the headquarters at that time was right next to Kenai runway, and -- So he did a lot of flying for the other refuges in Alaska and for waterfowl work. And so he was gone a lot, but when I came, he said, well -- he knew that I had had quite a bit of botany, he said, well, want to start a herbarium and so you can do plant collecting but we've got -- we wanna build a first public campground out in Skilak Lake. And that's -- when they built a road to Moose Pass so that the railroad -- so you could drive there and take a railroad to Anchorage. There was no road to Anchorage, but then the gravel road also they had a spur out to -- well it went close. The old road went to Skilak, but they had a spur of a mile and a half or so to the lake. And there, a bulldozer had just pushed up roots and trees and stuff and -- But it was a place where you could launch a boat and a gravel beach. The plan was to clean that out, all that debris, and make campgrounds. Start to make campgrounds. And so, I get assigned to -- and with a tent and stove, and a place to live in a tent. And they had a boat with outboard, and if weather was good I could take the boat and go, mostly across the lake, and then climb up into the mountains, and collect plants. And then the mountains, up in the mountain sheep and the mountain goat habitat. And -- and then I'd come back and put the plants in the plant press, and if it was windy, or not good weather, or foggy, and you wouldn't go in the mountains, I could just do the woods work around there. And then Dave Spencer would come back from the field, he'd come out and help me with the work, and so it was --

PAT VALKENBURG: But your main job was actually building the campground out there was that what it was?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, that was for me to do when I wasn't needed to do other things.

PAT VALKENBURG: Yeah, yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: Then they wanted me -- Bob Scott was working for the Fish and Wildlife as a mountain sheep guy. He was based in Anchorage, and he wanted -- he had been doing some work in the Kenai Mountains on mountain sheep at the head of -- the mountains at the head of Tustumena Lake. And he'd built a little tent camp with a wood floor and frame, so it could go through the winter. The wall tent over it and with a wood stove right up there in the -- right at the beginning of the alpine zone, and -- So he had done some work even -- He was working -- his intention was to do a PhD through the University of British Columbia on mountain sheep, but he was working full time for Fish and Wildlife. He had a master's degree from Oregon State in wildlife. And that was a pretty advanced degree at that time for a classical biologist. And he -- so I had instructions on how to do the counts of ewe to lamb ratios in the Indian Creek area there. And it's a terrific area. It was just -- Dave Spencer flew me up to a little lake about halfway up from Tustumena and -- with the Widgeon. And then I -- then we air dropped some food, and so I didn't have too much to carry up there. And then I took my camping gear and stuff. Then when I got up there, the one thing he forgot was the plant press because they wanted -- Scott, and he, they both wanted plant collecting up there, too. So he said, well he was going to be able to fly over in a day or two and he could drop me a plant press. And that was an interesting experience because he -- it was – he – the weather it's -- fogged in, so he couldn't come when he was planning to -- when he said he would likely come. And I woke up in the morning, in the tent, and it had snowed about this much, so there was snow all over the willows and stuff, and -- and uh -- But it was lifting, and so finally, I thought, well, he'll probably make it if it lifts enough, but even before the clouds had lifted, I heard the plane and he came in and he had a -- he didn't have too much room between the clouds and where he was going to drop it which was just as well, but he knew the area and -- But he was by himself in this Widgeon and he made this swoop, and I thought -- I could see he was trying to push this plant press out of the window. And what happened, the strap got caught around the stick, and so the plane went like this, and he straightened it out and he made another loop. And the second time, he pushed it in. And we had all rigged up with some cloth that would -- like a tail, so that when it would hit the ground it would -- it wouldn't go down in the brush. And so, he pushed all this cloth out first, and then the wind just pulled the whole thing out, and stripped the nails off and so all of these papers and blotters came down into this wet snow, and scattered all over the area.

PAT VALKENBURG: So it took you the rest of the day to put the plant press back together?

DAVID KLEIN: Fortunately, it was a sunny day. But I didn't dry it all out completely. I put it behind the stove, the blotters and stuff, and the cardboards, and I picked up quite a bit before they got too bad and – but –

KAREN BREWSTER: Some of the adventures of early --

DAVID KLEIN: -- And then Dave told me, he says, that was a mistake on his part.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was going to say, some of the adventures of early fieldwork.

DAVID KLEIN: Oh yeah. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: And we – then another thing I did with Dave, is he was doing some -- with the Widgeon, which is a little faster than you needed for mountain counting from the air, so -- and I was by this time, I was beginning to think -- Well, I was falling in love with working with alpine ungulates for sure. And -- But here was -- I was learning a lot doing some of Scott's stuff. He had already set up some exclosures where – that were -- the sheep had -- were doing a lot of heavy grazing to see what the effect would be on plants. And he made it all out of locally harvested alders. And some of them were keeping the sheep away, and you could see a difference already. And at any rate, I was learning a lot about sheep. And then I knew if I hiked further up, close to the glacier, there should be goats. And yeah, I went up there and spotted some goats and got a little familiar with the goats and the kind of habitat they were in. And -- So that was, I was definitely thinking strongly about that, but I didn't -- I still hadn't got to the university to start the program. So, in the meantime, then, Neil Hosley, the first unit leader was talked into taking the deanship of the university, the dean of students And well it was -- a position for him, and he loved it in Alaska. And his wife -- he had a son who was almost ready to begin the university.

KAREN BREWSTER: So who became dean of the -- or head of the Cooperative -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: Okay, then they had -- part of the deal in establishing the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit was the university would hire one person to teach wildlife biology and management. And so then they hired John Buckley, who was -- had a doctorate from the University of New York, SUNY at Syracuse, I think. And so he then had -- so he had some experience there, and he became unit leader. So then they hired as that backup position, the university hired Jim Rearden to teach the wildlife courses. So John Buckley then officially became my advisor, although Hosley was sort of -- acted a bit of an advisor first. And he was still teaching wildlife courses, too. So, that -- Then it was up to me to convince Buckley that alpine ungulates – I wanted to work with alpine ungulates. And that – then Scott was covering mountain sheep; mountain goats were available. But, Buckley, his focus was on furbearers and waterfowl wetlands. And mainly -- and it made sense at that brand new unit which didn't have much funding -- and to focus on Meadow Lakes, where they built a cabin, log cabin, and were able to -- And then Brina Kessel had been hired as a biologist to work on -- and she was -- and her interest was waterfowl and birds. So most of the students at that time -- like there were about five students through the unit then, most of them were doing projects out there on furbearers, or -- not necessarily always out there, but on beaver -- lot of those work here out of Fairbanks and the Chatanika and other areas, and – and –

PAT VALKENBURG: Was there anybody working on moose or caribou?

DAVID KLEIN: Nope. At that time, it was sort of like those big ungulates were covered by biologists working for the Fish and Wildlife Service. So Ed Chatelain was based in Anchorage, but he mainly was responsible for moose, but also things like bison at Delta and – These were well-trained and well -- that's terrific scientists and biologists. And they were doing, you know, both management – but the studies, well, that's what we need to know as much as we can about the ecologies of animals if we're going to manage them. And that's one of the things that was important to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the early start of the development of wildlife management in Alaska is that the federal government had responsibility for the habitat and understanding the relationship of these animals through their habitat. And in the case of moose, that's sort of all important. And the alpine things, animals, you just figure, well, you don't have to manipulate the habitat, so, it's not so important. And the same with caribou, you know, they do their thing and you don't -- You should know what the relationship is, but we didn't know then how important habitat was, and they were beginning to show this importance. And that's one of the points that I feel like emphasizing, is that, then -- the transition to statehood was -- by that time I had finished my master's, served a year in the army – was drafted and served a year in the army and stayed in Alaska. And then got a full-time job as a wildlife biologist working – a management biologist I guess they were called then. Working in southeast Alaska with deer ecology.

PAT VALKENBURG: And that was in Petersburg?

DAVID KLEIN: Based in Petersburg, right. I was responsible for all our Southeast sort of.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, I'm going to --

[END TAPE 1, START TAPE 2]

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay, so you got your job studying deer in -- that was for the territorial department of Fish and Game or what was -- it was the state?

DAVID KLEIN: It was still a territory.

PAT VALKENBURG: Still for Fish and Wildlife Service.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. It was, technically, you were working for both the territorial Game Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service. And the Chair, non-voting Chair of the Game Commission was the head of the Fish and Wildlife Service for Alaska. That was Clarence Rhode when I was doing that work. But the Game Commission was four or five senior guys. Included a medical doctor in Fairbanks, and a fur buyer from Nome, a hunter/guide from the Kenai, and then I guess there was another one. There was a hunter, a fellow who would -- was an ardent hunter but he ran a fish cannery and he'd been a commercial fisherman. Fish cannery in -- but he was an ardent hunter and fisherman.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the fact that you were so interested in habitat and the plant/animal connection, was that typical for wildlife managers at the time?

DAVID KLEIN: It was typical for a federal government biologist. Although as usual, I mean, they had to do surveys and try to estimate numbers in things like moose and caribou, especially in areas where there was hunting pressure, like in the Nelchina area where it was road accessible from Anchorage and Fairbanks. And then moose in the Susitna Valley and interior Alaska, and other places. Rural areas were mostly native hunters, subsistence hunters, and there wasn't much effort at the time to do wildlife management to serve the interest of native people. So there were game regulations, frequently, were not appropriate for caribou, for example, season might open before they could keep the -- or wouldn't open say, until the weather was getting cool. But it wasn't tuned to keeping and preserving the meat by the native people. So in case of caribou, it's when the caribou were in their area. Whereas urban hunters they had to access the caribou via the Steese Highway or the Taylor Highway, primarily. And it was before there was a lot of fly-in kind of hunting. And so it was natives -- in fact there was – I think, they didn't even require natives in territorial days to have licenses or they may have established them, the state legislature at twenty-five cents or something. And, of course, a lot of the natives just wouldn't bother and there was nobody checking on it. So it was like the attitudes, well, we have to train these people to live by regulations because these harvests have to be shared between natives and non-natives. But the subsistence issue wasn't considered a serious one at that time because it was prior to statehood, and the state, the territory didn't have -- everything was -- had to go through the federal government to begin with. It was like waste and wanton killing or something like that. So that the game wardens were confronted with things like stopping the natives from using rawhide snares to kill moose because they put a lot of them out and they might not get to them before wolves would chew them up or something if they got caught in the snare. Or the animal would not be killed right away and they might because of bad weather, not be able to get up there with their dog teams and find it. And things like that. And then the waterfowl, the migratory waterfowl, the natives hunted when they wanted them, when they were available, and they were frequently not available when the natives could get them. The seasons wouldn't open until the first of September and where the waterfowl were breeding, they were gone usually by that time.

KAREN BREWSTER: So that made the natives who hunted them, were hunting them illegally out of season?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, and that was a big controversy. By this time -- but it was federal government because it was migratory waterfowl. And then after statehood, then the state didn't want to get into that controversy. The federal government didn't -- and that was a separate issue which was – it took a lot of learning on the part of the federal government, the Fish and Wildlife Service, on how to get compliance because this was the international law and they were supposed to, according to the treaty with Canada and Texas, they were supposed to, or Mexico rather. Yeah. They were supposed to – I mean, from the standpoint of being international it was important for conservation of waterfowl, because there was extreme killing of birds in Canada and Mexico, and Alaska out of

season. And Mexico was making progress and so was Canada, but Alaska was one of the most critical ones because we had this tremendously rich area -- these rich areas for waterfowl production. And traditionally native people have used them, and it's frequently tied into, say, muskrat hunting in the springtime and that was important to get cash income for the natives. And this was after the long winter when the fish that they caught the previous summer were – supply was pretty much gone. And in those areas they didn't have moose or caribou available.

KAREN BREWSTER: So those --Something was done to change those laws so that the native people hunting them were no longer doing it illegally.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

PAT VALKENBURG: That's very recent though.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's recent.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, it was – there was a lot attempts to try to change these, and it had to go through the state department because it was international. And in Canada, especially the prairie providences that produced a lot of waterfowl and were controlling harvest, but they didn't -- and they had similar problems in the Arctic, but they didn't have this high numbers like we have.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, what I was wondering is what happened in the wildlife management community to get people to start understanding they needed to make this change in the laws?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, in the case of the migratory birds, I mean, that was coming down from Washington, that, well, we've got to comply because we've tried to get some modification in the treaty with Canada and it wouldn't work because some of the provinces said, no, they wouldn't go along with letting any spring hunting go on for waterfowl. There were other things that traditionally had been done like harvest of eggs, which was sort of like a community activity. Women and children in drives of flightless birds when the young were big enough to be just beginning or almost ready to fly and the adults were -- lost their flight feathers and molting. Then you can have these drives where one or two villages would get together and you could kill hundreds and hundreds of birds. And the thought of that by -- the controversy was really between, over rather, the natives taking them sort of out of season and taking producing birds, versus sport hunters in wintering areas especially geese in Oregon and Washington, wintering there. And sport hunters didn't want restrictions on them when the natives were doing all these things out of season, etc., etc. So that was a difficult effort. And then there was a few deals where the word came down from Washington, we just can't let these natives go out and do the spring hunting. They were announcing that, you know, getting the word out that it was illegal to take them in the spring. Well, the people weren't going to stop. And then they had a couple of shootouts. One was in Bethel, and so these were young natives that just took their boat across the river and started hunting waterfowl. Well, that was a

tough one. And then the worst one was -- And I know the enforcement agents and they were required to be out there flying and there were some natives, a couple of guys with a dog team that had gone out to hunt waterfowl from the village, so they're only out on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. I forgot, it might have been, it wasn't Chevak, but it was Tuntutuliak, I think. And they said, here's this guy with geese and the dog team and camp, and they didn't have a camp but just had a blind because they'd come up from the village. And they were only about three miles from the village. And so the plane circled around and these guys hitch up their dogs and headed for the village as fast as they could go. And so they were going to land there with skis, but they had taken off. So they circled around and they landed at -- these guys arrived at the village before they could land. And so they landed and the whole village came out with these guys and they were confronted with the whole village. And they realized they just better just leave. Which they did. There wasn't any gunfire at that one, but it was – they – law enforcement -- he just couldn't enforce the law in that kind of situation. And then we had to deal at Barrow where the --

KAREN BREWSTER: The Duck-in.

DAVID KLEIN: With the eider ducks.

KAREN BREWSTER: So we had you working with deer in southeastern Alaska and somehow you went to get your PhD at the University of British Columbia, right?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that PhD was on Arctic ungulates again?

DAVID KLEIN: No, it was on deer. And as I was working down there I was starting some research projects, because I was looking at habitat relationships. I was using -- built up some enclosures to protect vegetation in old growth situations and in open areas. And was starting to learn stuff about that. And then I was fascinated by the fact that some of the deer, the deer on some islands were different deer on other islands. And there were -- some of the biggest deer were on an island close to Wrangell, which is close to the mainland, and close to the Stikine River, where coming through the -- from British Columbia. And then the super small deer out on Coronation Island, which was pretty remote in places. Now a wilderness area within the Forest Service. And there, there were also no wolves on Coronation Island, and no bears. And so there was no -- the deer were small and they didn't have as much alpine area per percentage of the island as the Woron – Woronkofski a lot of lush, but it also -- and it had fairly steep slopes. But in normal winter the deer would come down as the snow accumulated up in the alpine and there was plenty of forage. In a tough winter, the snow would get deeper there than out on the outside island where it was a much milder climate. And so there was a lot of rain instead of snow and deer could stay up high, but they also -- it was obvious they were overgrazing and using, and browsing vegetation and so a lot of the prime forage species were absent. And whereas out on Woronkofski, no, in a tough winter the forage wasn't overgrazed because the snow was too deep and the deer died of starvation, a lot of them,

but the wolves could get there, too, by swimming from other islands, which they frequently did. And when after a severe winter the population was knocked way down, but then it bounced back rapidly because there it was such a lush environment.

KAREN BREWSTER: So this is what your PhD was about?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, comparing the deer and the vegetation on these two islands. And the reason that I got involved with the University of British Columbia was I had some connections. I had organized and sold the idea to my advisor that I should be able to make a trip to Vancouver Island, where there was a lot of logging going on and we hadn't had much logging; we were just starting to get it in Alaska. And where they had the deer populations -- and to visit with their biologist for that portion of Vancouver Island or all of Vancouver Island, I guess, at the time, a guy named Robinson. And so I made the trip down there, and they paid for my travel. And Robinson hosted my visit and toured me around, and I made connections then with the work that was being done on deer in British Columbia, which was another sub-species of the mule deer, separate from the Sitka black tail. And so when I -- then the professor at the University of British Columbia, Ian McTaggart-Cowan, who was a senior person who had done just fabulous wildlife work. Worked with mountain sheep and published on deer, and clams, and birds, and anything that you can think of. And just a top-notch person. And I already knew he was a good advisor, because Bob Scott had started a PhD there, and Jim Brooks had also started one, but didn't finish because both of them were so busy with their work in Alaska. They couldn't spend the time. But at any rate, Cowan contacted my supervisor in Juneau, Pete Nelson, about could he get some – if there was --if somebody picked up fawns and mistakenly took them into captivity and what would -- what did we normally do with them. Well, we had a problem in Petersburg, too. Somebody would be out on the road and there would be a fawn and it was a newborn and the doe had run off, and they'd pick it up and bring it back in and give it to Fish and Game, or to Fish and Wildlife. To me. And so there was a fur farm that had an association with the university in Petersburg, and they had a big fenced area around these pens where they had foxes and mink. And we could take the fawn out there and bottle feed it for a while, get somebody to bottle feed it; there was usually people out there that would bottle feed it. And then eventually let it go into the wild. But the problem is they frequently were hooked on people. And you know, what can you do with a fawn like that, and we couldn't spend the time to bottle feed. My wife did at times and I did -- we did it together a couple of times until we got something worked out. And so Nelson contacted me from Juneau and said, "Yeah, if you could get something we could maybe get him down." So we did ship down, I think, four Sitka black tail deer fawns. Separately. When we had them we would let him know by telephone. And it was complicated, but he was persistent about, "You just send them to Seattle. And we'll drive down with some grad students or somebody and pick them up and bring them back to Vancouver."

KAREN BREWSTER: And what was he going to do with them?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, they had captive animals and they were comparing growth and behavior and physiology of the Sitka black tail, and then the Columbia black tail in B.C.,

and then the California black tail down in southern California. It's quite different habitats. And so they got these Sitka black tails down there and we didn't lose any.

KAREN BREWSTER: So making these –

DAVID KLEIN: Put them in big cardboard boxes with a lot of -- we had to get approval from the airlines and they had to be flown in a -- at that time, in a Grumman Goose to Ketchikan and then Annette Island and they could get on a DC-3 -- 6 to Seattle. And we had to let Cowan know when we were doing this. And the airline said, "As long as you have people there to be sure they get taken care of properly." And we'd get someone from Ketchikan to go over and help get them -- be sure they got transferred properly.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you did your PhD at the same time you were working in Petersburg?

DAVID KLIEN: No. Yes and no. '59 was when statehood came. And so when statehood came, there was going to be a new -- transfer of management of wildlife to the state. And so the state was just getting started, and they had a state Department of Fisheries about two years before statehood and then they built that Department of Fish and Game and created the Game Division, which then later became Division of Wildlife Conservation, but a Game Division. And then the head of that Game Division was Jim Brooks, who had been working for the state, or the territorial fisheries doing marine mammals studies and he was moved into the position as Director of the Game Division. Well, he was a fellow student here with me and I knew him well, and so were a lot of other people that were working with Fish and Wildlife. And they transferred Ron Skoog, sort of fell in that category but not quite the same because he did his tour in Africa for his PhD. But then there were others. The other Robert Rausch, who was a student here and transferred. And Will Troyer was working as a game warden. He had a master's from Montana, I think it was, but he took a game warden job because he wanted to work in Alaska. And when statehood came, he was able to move into a refuge position.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, you also, you transferred from Fish and Wildlife to the state division?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, but by this time I knew that I wanted to go back to school and get a PhD, but I also had a wife and two kids. And so I agreed to work for Fish and Game if they would -- I would stay there in Petersburg initially and continue the deer studies, which would be part of my PhD dissertation. But I would take leave without pay, but called educational leave in the new ADFG [Alaska Division of Fish and Game] to spend the required residence time at University of British Columbia, which was two years, two academic years. So then in the summer, I'd go down there with the whole family and my family would move to Walla Walla, where my wife was from, with the kids. And I would come back to Alaska and continue the deer work. And then they had hired a guy to fill -- Harry Merriam to fill my position, and so he worked as a field assistant on my finishing up the deer studies. And as well as they had others that could work with me, which was really -- worked out real well.

KAREN BREWSTER: So when did you finish your PhD?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, then I finished the academic requirements and I had almost finished field work, essentially finished the field work, when Fish and Game wanted me to come back, 'cause I had to go somewhere. And so the job they had for me was in Juneau, which was heading up the coordination for the Pittman-Robertson Fish and Wildlife, Conservation of Fish and Wildlife.

KAREN BREWSTER: What's that?

DAVID KLEIN: Federal aid for wildlife conservation and management, which is a federal law. And Pittman and Robertson are the members of Congress who pushed it through. And they took a tax on firearms and ammunition and that money was used -- distributed throughout the states and even the territory even got a little bit from it, but you got a portion in relationship to the number of hunting licenses sold in the state versus the size. So we had, even though we had a lot of hunters for our population, we didn't have very many compared to New York and Texas. But we got – Alaska got the maximum amount because we're of all of the -- the size of Alaska. And so that was the major support for the wildlife management work and associated biological studies.

KAREN BREWSTER: So was your job to help distribute the funds around Alaska?

DAVID KLEIN: My job was to be the administrator for the funds and budgeting, but also visiting some of the research projects. So I did get to travel around the state and visit some of the projects and so that mainly to be sure you were meeting the standards required. But there were excellent people that were hired. A lot of young people, students, that had come in with degrees which was unusual from the way it had been in the old days.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, you mentioned that before that wildlife managers, or game wardens, previously didn't have advanced degrees very much.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, some of them didn't and some of them came into it indirectly. Like sometimes a game warden might be inclined to -- in addition to doing their job, to get the information on numbers and things that were needed for management. And so sometimes game wardens were doing in a sense the same thing that biologists were doing. Sometimes not at all. And so that's the way it was in the old day. I mean, some of the early people that were doing fabulous work, like the first real biologists were people that were sent up here, like Olaus Murie, sent up from the Lower 48, from Wyoming to study the caribou. And so it wasn't the territory, it was federal government that had approved a budget for him. And the same when he went out into the Alaskan Peninsula and the eastern Aleutian Islands. Sometimes it was tied with human activities like in the Aleutians, the foxes were -- red foxes occur naturally out onto -- as far as Umnak Island. And so it is on Unalaska, where Dutch Harbor is and Unalaska. And so someone -- he went out there because, well what's this -- this is an important bird protection area but

then we've got foxes introduced by the Russians on the islands further out. The Arctic foxes. And yet this economy was based on this because of the natives -- The Russians, of course, started putting foxes out there and the Americans continued to do it after it became a territory under the U.S. And some of the natives were -- this was a good source of cash income to trap foxes on the islands. And they were living off of the birds and the chicks and stuff. But it's all -- some of Muries' requirements were, well, what -- What are the highest priority from the native standpoint? And what about these others where if we get rid of the foxes it will help the birds and it wasn't going to hurt nobody. And that's for the Arctics [fox] approach. And on Umnak and Unalaska, there were ranchers out there with sheep and what. And they didn't like red foxes, because they killed some of the new born lambs. And so they wanted Predator and Rodent Control out there, and yeah, they'd go out there and poison or kill foxes and shoot them mostly, I guess foxes. And so it was -- but on the other hand these were natural areas and then what is the role of the foxes there. So that's where it took somebody like Murie that could go out there and do studies on just what the foxes were eating. It turns out the red foxes weren't killing many birds, they were eating voles. And there were a lot of voles that far out, but beyond that, there weren't any voles.

KAREN BREWSTER: But it does lead to the question of when do you manage and when do you not manage --

DAVID KLEIN: Oh yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- species. That as wildlife managers, you have to think about that.

DAVID KLEIN: Right, but you have to -- the history of wildlife management in North America has been during the early pioneering days -- I mean obviously the homesteaders and what lived off all the land as much as possible. And it was the urban people who were doing the overhunting usually and killing off the passenger pigeon and waterfowl. They were the ones that were harvesting 'cause there were no bag limits at first. And with deer they were overhunted, especially in New England, you know, they were overhunted. Then a lot of the marginal farms were abandoned and went back to deer habitat. And the deer didn't come back because there was so much hunting pressure. Well, then they established the buck law, and figured well, never kill the females because they produced young deer. So then the buck law was transferred up to Alaska, in southeast. Sig Olson, who I replaced, he was the first biologist -- wildlife biologist under the Fish and Wildlife Service for southeast Alaska working with deer. And his job was to get rid of the damn buck law because they had --deer were coming out of their teeth in some places. And there were so many of them and the Predator and Rodent Control people with the federal government were killing wolves because they kill deer. And the only hunting was where you could get to by boat from villages. And so there were vast areas that didn't get people. You know, the occasional people out. And so it was a different era. I have somewhere in my office a copy of -- it was a copy of a report by a game warden that was sent up to Alaska because they had heard that there was this wanton killing of deer and stuff. And he came up by steam ship and he got to Petersburg,

which was settled by Norwegian fishermen. And there were natives, a few natives, but they were – most of the natives were in Kake and other places, but they were also some -- in fact some fish processing places where the – canneries where they were hired. There were a few natives but some of them were Filipinos and others were imported to work there. But they were considered natives if they weren't Americans. And here was this Norwegian fishing community and they came up through -- on this steam ship, through Wrangell Narrows and he saw all these people out harvesting the deer. The deer were forced down there because there was a big population and the snows were deep and they were starving to death. And they were out there and there were some few natives, I think, but probably Filipinos and others that this guy thought were natives, and then there were Norwegians. So he wrote up in his report -- he had stopped at other villages and he didn't see this going on because the deer were right in Wrangell Narrows, there you saw all this. And where there was high population there, too. In Ketchikan there probably wasn't that many deer around. And he says, "Petersburg is one of the cussedist towns and there's so much wanton killing of animals." And he saw these boats coming in – and these were rowboats, and just loaded with deer carcasses. Well, there was a whole group of hunters going out, and he said, "It's a cussedist town," that he knows of in Alaska. And it was all coastal towns he knew about. "And it's just a bunch of savages out there and the God damn Norwegians." And he said, "The only white man in Petersburg" -- Now when he said white man, he knew that Norwegians were considered white so --"The only white man in Petersburg was Sing Lee [SP?], the Chinese guy that ran a restaurant. All the rest were outlaws and bandits." It's amazing!

KAREN BREWSTER: So I want to get us to your work with the Cooperative Wildlife Unit here at the university in Fairbanks.

DAVID KLEIN: Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: Your work with the Cooperative Unit here at the university in Fairbanks. How you got that position and what you did in that position?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, there's a lot of coincidences. And when I came back to Juneau, I still had to write up my thesis. And I got a start on it, but I -- that's what was remaining. I had to write the thesis. So I figured I would have to work evenings and stuff, and I couldn't. I had to do my job for Fish and Game; that was a full-time job. And I was making progress. I worked at home in the evenings and it wasn't as bad as being away from home. And you didn't get as much done because of small kids, but I was making progress. And then in -- so I started in June or so, well probably the beginning of July just as the fiscal year was starting. I came in to that -- and that was kind of an adventure because we had a VW Bug, which was great for when my wife was down there. I'd bought it when we went to start at the university. And so she had the transportation to -- and at the university we had transportation and so then we decided – we got this -- they wanted me to take this position in Juneau. Be there at the beginning of July. Well, that was pushing it because how do you get your car there? Well, we drove to Carcross and it was in spring time so they put the car on a flatcar in Carcross. And we had to get up

around 4:30 in the morning and go up, because they wanted the train to go through before the hot weather -- sunny weather created avalanches. Because they had to keep these --

KAREN BREWSTER: So this was to take it down to Skagway?

DAVID KLEIN: To Skagway and then there was -- took a ferry there to Juneau. We got there that way. And it was fun. It was a wonderful experience for the kids.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you worked in Juneau for how long?

DAVID KLEIN: One year. And so then, sort of about the beginning of the calendar year, I was approached by the Fish and Wildlife Service because what had happened in the Wildlife Unit was Bob Scott had become Unit Leader. And Buckley had gone to Washington. He'd got a position that was sort of like advisory to the President then. Wildlife ecology. And so then Scott got the position. Well, Scott had commitments, too. And he was working out of Anchorage at the time. And so he – for a while they had a -- they got a Unit Leader from someplace else that came up for a month, or two, or three from Pennsylvania. I know, Jim Binkley, I think it was. Something like that. And he loved it. And they offered him the position, but his wife loved Pennsylvania too much and so he couldn't come. And finally Bob Scott took the position and he was certainly well qualified. And he hadn't finished his PhD, but he got so much good, positive experience and the sheep work he'd done was just terrific. So he took the position. And so then they offered him another position in Washington partly because he was having an alcohol problem. He had some -- he went through a period when his family broke up. And so they offered him a position in Washington and he got into refuge work and he became shortly – he got rid of the alcoholism and became manager for the refuges for the country, the whole country. So that opened that position again, and then they had to get somebody else to come up for a short time. And Fred Dean was acting Unit Leader for a short time, but he was a professor there. So they asked me if I would be interested. And Scott had recommended me. And so I said I couldn't do it, because I had taken this position and I had to stick it out because they were dependent upon me and I just couldn't walk away from that. And so I figured -- And I hadn't finished my PhD. So I continued to work on that and then finally springtime, they came back again and wanted to know if I would consider coming. And I said, "No, I have to stay here at least through the fiscal year." Well, they said, "What about after that?" And then I went and talked to Jim Brooks and he said -- 'cause I talked to him earlier and I told him I wasn't planning to go there. And then I told him that -- had a good talk with him. And he said, well, he thinks the best place for me would be there. And I should take the opportunity to go. So I told him I would stay through the budgeting, and then I would come.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so what year was that, that you came to Fairbanks?

DAVID KLEIN: '62.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what's your assessment of -- you were there from '62 'til? You ran the unit until '91?

DAVID KLEIN: No, I have to look that one up. When did I retire? That was '97 I think, maybe '91, yeah. In '91, the Fishery Unit had become established in the '80's. And we were separate units, fishery and wildlife. And then there was a lot of pressure to merge the two from the federal standpoint, which they were doing throughout the country mostly. And it made some sense in terms of funding and administration. And so I held out because they were -- one of the reasons for merging them was to reduce the number of people. You'd only have one Unit Leader then, and instead of two. And we had Assistant Unit Leaders, one Assistant Unit Leader for Wildlife and one for Fisheries. And so by merging they would reduce it, and I said, "This is Alaska, we should have more than one Assistant Unit Leader. We should have more federal government people in the units in Alaska." And so they finally said -- they wanted me to be the Unit Leader for the merged units, because I had seniority over Jim Reynolds who was the fishery guy. And I said, "No, I'm not going to be the administrator for the combined units." I wanted to continue with my own research, my own graduate students support program, etc., etc. So they then created the position of Senior Scientist with the merged unit. And we were able to keep all of our positions. And in fact, we had already tentatively been approved additional Assistant Unit Leader positions in the wildlife program. But they said they couldn't fill those because the budget, federal budget, was so tight. None of the positions and some of the Unit Leader positions had to remain vacant because people had retired or left.

PAT VALKENBURG: So as the Senior Scientist you were able to continue with graduate students, who more or less, you had before but you had less administrative responsibilities.

DAVID KLEIN: Somewhat less, yeah. I still had some for my own students. I had to work on that.

KAREN BREWSTER: So how does that work, the Cooperative Unit was the Fish and Wildlife Service, but you were teaching at the university?

DAVID KLEIN: Well technically, the Unit Leaders, the federal employees, have a faculty appointment. We had a contract with the university and the faculty appointment you had, you cost -- there was one buck involved, I think. So they didn't -- the university didn't have any responsibility for salary or they didn't have responsibility for things like tenure. And your tenure had to be through the merit system in the federal government. And sabbatical leave, no, they didn't have anything like that. And the federal government didn't either. But technically you were supposed to be -- go through the same panels for promotion as a professor. So it didn't mean a salary increase if you got advanced to an associate professor or full professor, but you did have to go through the whole deal of going through a review panel, etc. But you also had to go through one of those for any advancement in the federal government, separate.

KAREN BREWSTER: Seems confusing.

DAVID KLEIN: It's confusing. It's not confusing, it's too much paperwork and too much -- but that's probably one of the reasons why I didn't want to get too much into administration. But it was important for the Units because the concept of the Cooperative Unit Program, I think, is an excellent one. Because it works. It means the state and the federal governments are working together with the university. So it could only be at land grant universities, state universities. And there had to be a memorandum of understanding that all of them signed. And that meant the university provided an office, a secretary, and the salary for the secretary, and the operation of that office. And the federal government provided the salary for the Unit Leader and Assistant Unit Leader. But they didn't -- and then the Department of Fish and Game in this case, they provided a fixed amount of money per year which was up around $25,000, I think, and that was used for stipends. Understood, I think, it was specifically in the memorandum of understanding for support of graduate student training. So it could be stipends for some of their costs, but most of it went for stipends. And we had to look for other money to cover costs. But we had some advantages because we were like a mini-institute in the university. And we had -- the standard was ten percent overhead if the money was coming from state or federal agencies to support student projects. Whereas if it went through the business office for the Institute of Arctic Biology, which we were affiliated with, or Department of Biology and Wildlife, the university would take about -- at that time, about thirty percent overhead and now it's up around fifty percent. So that was a good deal. So we could go to Fish and Wildlife or Fish and Game, especially federal agencies, go to the Forest Service or the National Park Service, or BLM, and say you've indicated an interest in some area and if you support a student with a grant of ten to fifteen thousand bucks at that time, it would cover a lot. And frequently they would provide logistics support, too. Like Fish and Game would get more money through a logistics support, sometimes with aircraft support. And it was good for the students because the students were then sometimes working with the federal biologists. Whereas if they had to hire somebody to do the study, it would have cost them megabucks compared to having a student do the work. So it was good for the agencies to get these projects done, but it was particularly good for the students to get to work with agency people. And frequently it led to them getting jobs after they finished up.

PAT VALKENBURG: I think it was a very, very successful program for the Department of Fish and Game. An excellent apprenticeship program.

DAVID KLEIN: Most of our -- In the early days, most of all of our graduates went to Fish and Game and worked there. Well, that was good because it was a growing organization and growing responsibilities. And funding of federal aid and wildlife restoration work was increasing. And so that was a good deal.

KAREN BREWSTER: And was it a good deal for you and your career to have worked there?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, definitely, I mean I was happy working there. And it was good in so many ways. I mean I was there with other scientists and it kept me on my toes that way. And I'm a social person, too. I mean I liked being around -- I loved working in

Petersburg, but it was pretty isolated from contact with people that had similar interests. I mean the Norwegian fishermen were nice people, but if you –

PAT VALKENBURG: They're not wildlife biologists.

DAVID KLEIN: They're not wildlife biologists, and they don't think the same as you do. I mean you could have common conservations, especially if you were both hunters. But it was socially, it wasn't the greatest place. So I appreciated being with people where you can sit down and discuss -- and argue with, too, at times.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you feel like you've made the right choice to have gone into wildlife management?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. I've become more of an ecologist as I've matured. But basically that was my start. And I still feel that trying to understand natural systems, especially natural systems where we don't -- that's one of the attractions of being in Alaska rather than say Missouri or other where there's good wildlife going, but a lot of it's related to land use and we don't have that much of that here in Alaska. They have problems, you know, there're problems but there're a different kind of problems at like Kodiak Island with ranching cattle with brown bear country, for example. And other problems with the bison in the Delta where probably, you know, the amount of time that Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife people before spent on management of those bison compared to what they should spend on caribou or moose work was huge. And has been huge. And that's the same way with getting hung up on things like wolf management and bear management, is that frequently they'll lose focus on trying to understand the basic relationship between the animals and their environment. And the wolves are part of it and the bears are part of it, but the vegetation is an important part of it. And that's what I feel what was the real loss in moving from territory with federal management was there was a big focus on habitat under federal management. It's understandable, because they hold the land, too. When statehood came it was attitude of the new Department of Fish and Game was -- their job was to learn more about animal population, the numbers, because the state has to allocate harvest among potential users. And most of the land was still in federal ownership. So the state felt like federal government should take more responsibility for habitat. Well, on federal lands they did, but not on BLM lands, see. It was on mostly Park Service and Forest Service lands. But the Forest Service is a poor example because the Forest Service -- we were at odds when I was working for the federal government, Fish and Wildlife Service in southeast Alaska, because the Forest Service was technically responsible for deer habitat and once they started logging, I mean it was only wood. It was only fiber was the only thing they were interested in when they were supposed to be a multiple resource agency. They didn't employ any -- in those early days, there was no Forest Service biologist. They were all foresters.

PAT VALKENBURG: Yeah, and they just entered into the 50-year pulp and timber contract.

DAVID KLEIN: Oh yeah, right. And the attitudes of the chief forester, who was a sharp guy, but his whole attitude was -- and the Forest Service in general was -- get that old growth timber out and get the second growth into production. That's just wasting these resources to let them rot, these trees, these old growth trees rot on the land. And you say, "Well, what about habitat for wildlife?" "Oh, that's not important. This is the National Forest." We'd say, "Yeah, it's a National Forest, how is it that you're not paying attention to wildlife?" I mean, I remember I had a meeting with -- when I was the area biologist for the federal government in Petersburg and over problems with the -- the first loggers were starting to log in southern Admiralty Island. And you know, they were small-scale operators, but they were mostly – it was saw logs for Wrangell, but they had their whole families out there. And they were at the – go to the head of these bays that were estuaries where the pink salmon were spawning actually in the intertidal areas. And they were using these to yard the logs, because the tide would go out and they would work with their equipment down there. And of course the bears came there. And then they weren't taking care of their garbage in the camp and so they're having all these problems with the bears attracted to the camp. And you've got families with kids and so --

[END TAPE 2, START TAPE 3]

DAVID KLEIN: But we finally sat down with this guy, and, and – he --almost as well, maybe, -- this is -- they shouldn't be there. And I said, "Well, why are they there? They're there because around your camp they're being attracted because the -- not taking caring care of the garbage." And they said, "Well, we're trying to do a better job." But it -- and then finally he got frustrated and he said, "Let's face it, the future of this is logging." This is Admiralty Island. "The bears gotta go," he said. "The bears gotta go." And I said, "Well look, wait a second, the bears have a place there. So you say the fish should go, too, or something?" I didn't -- we didn't carry it on. I'd said too much.

PAT VALKENBURG: Doesn't sound like a very good road to go down.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, the Cooperative Unit is still in existence, or it has gone away?

DAVID KLEIN: Is what?

KAREN BREWSTER: Is the Cooperative Unit still a functioning entity at UAF?

DAVID KLEIN: Yup. It's functioning. It's at the moment -- It was for a long time the fisheries prof -- the unit leader was a fisheries guy, Jim Reynolds, and he retired eventually and the next person was also a fisheries guy. They recruited from somebody who had been a Unit Leader back in West Virginia, I think. And he was a pretty good guy, and he was here. And it's a little complicated because the fisheries people used to all be within -- when we first merged, they were essentially all within the department of biology and wildlife. But then later on, with marine science, some of them became

professors in marine science, but the unit itself remained affiliated with the Institute of Arctic Biology. And the wildlife people would be in the biology and wildlife department. And now it's back. Brad Griffith is now -- he's a wildlifer. He's now the unit leader, and so is a wildlife person there. But they have fishery assistant unit leaders and -- They mostly stayed within the biology and wildlife program, but they work closely with them and do some teaching courses in marine science in the School of Fisheries and oceanography.

KAREN BREWSTER: And are they within the Institute of Arctic Biology? Or the unit is separate?

DAVID KLEIN: Technically, yeah. Because all of the faculty members in biology also have an appointment with the Institute of Arctic Biology. But that's technically the research component and so research goes through the Institute of Arctic Biology and the Wildlife Unit and the Cooperative Unit, they do it through the business office of the IAB.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

DAVID KLEIN: Which we -- In the early days, I had to have a secretary that kept the books as well as being the secretary.

KAREWN BREWSTER: Ok.

DAVID KLEIN: And -- So now it's handled through IAB, and there's some advantage to that. There were some disadvantages, as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I have just a few last questions, sort of summation questions. About your overall career. And you've talked about a lot of the highlights and the fieldwork and how much you enjoyed that. And working with other scientists. I'm wondering if you can talk about what may have been particularly difficult or challenging for you along the way through your career.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I think, especially when I first began, I mean I -- I hadn't any experience as a professor advising students, graduate students. And not only that, but, at the beginning I had students that were -- there was -- the biology program didn't have many faculty, so biology and wildlife -- and so I was advising students that were doing projects on literally everything. And on marine mammals, on waterfowl and recreation even. And sometimes I would be asked to -- by the School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management, if I would be an advisor for one of their students because they didn't have any faculty that they felt were qualified. Like a study of cattle grazing on alpine habitat down in the Palmer area, which was -- Those kind of were challenges, but they were good for me because they forced me to broaden. And they were good in a way, too, because the other members of the committee were like people that were knowledgeable about agricultural areas and domestic animals grazing. That was good. I feel good. One of the reasons I liked the Cooperative Unit is it's -- it forces you to be broader and to work with other units. I think that's always been a problem. Especially

state and federal has – hasn't had the greatest relationship, but the Cooperative Unit, we had students working on projects that were jointly funded by state and federal. And that was good. And it's good for them to appreciate the advantages. And there're some real advantages, too, with a cooperative agreement like that. If you can get funding from more than one source, then they can't -- they're less inclined to say, oh, we got a budget cut the second year, we're not going to be able to come through. Well, you made this agreement, and if there's two agencies funding it, and they're only kicking in ten thousand bucks each, whereas if it was one agency, it would be twenty thousand. Well yeah, that's pretty big. And so you cut it down to ten. Whereas when they're each of them has agreed to it, then it works out well. And it's usually -- you sit down and the main thing is, how can you -- how can we keep -- get this student to finish the project and do it satisfactorily from the student standpoint. Because it's always the student is the primary consideration. That they get an adequate degree and they're able to finish it in a reasonable way. And so the cooperative nature is just terrific. And the way we used that -- in some cases where we're getting money from the oil industry and they'd challenge us to do a study in relationship to movement of caribou for example, and, and they would come up with the funding, simulate a pipeline, and then big bucks on that. And they were funding the whole thing and I, you know, when it came to signing an agreement, they said, "We have to see the -- you can't release any of this information until it gets approved by the oil industry." And I said, "Well, I don't think we can do this then." And I went to Fish and Wildlife, and I said, can you kick in ten thousand? And the oil industry was kicking in seventy thousand or something. And I said, because if you kick in, then the Freedom of Information Act requires that information is open. They did that, and went back to the oil industry, and reluctantly. And they violated -- We did have a agreement that while you're collecting the data that you wouldn't release information on it right away. We wouldn't and they wouldn't. But they violated it right away.

KAREN BREWSTER: So in terms of your scientific research, is there a particular project that you worked on that's your favorite or has been the most interesting and fulfilling for you?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, probably, but I don't think that way. I mean what I was thinking, what I think is -- What do I learn from this project, and how's it fit into my picture of ecology. And so what I realized I was becoming -- where in Southeast Alaska I was becoming a deer habitat relationship expert, and I was fascinated on the plant and animal interaction. And when I came to Fairbanks as a unit leader, I got hooked onto working with caribou and musk oxen and moose. And I -- then I was taking a broader interest and I began to think also about all the other aspects of herbivory like how do moose and snowshoe hares relate in relationship to habitat. And what are their impacts on the environment? And so it was sort of a broader ecological approach. And then, as I was working in the Arctic, and it -- well and some of the work in the Bering Sea Islands, and St. Matthew [Island] fell in the same category. I was working in -- where somewhat simpler ecosystem dynamics because there's fewer plant species that are important for the herbivores and there's not such a diversity of life. And so then I got hooked on Arctic and then high Arctic, and that's when I went to going to Greenland and Svalbard and Siberia. And foreign exchanges, those were important, very important parts of my career

and development. And becoming more interested in some of the work in Greenland done where the ecosystems are very small in terms of species diversity. But, you can admit it simplifies asking otherwise complex questions. And -- but you have to focus in on so many things that you didn't think so much of, like the long winter and the short-growing season, what are the adaptations of the plants to exist up there where they're the ones that are feed for the herbivores. Well, normally, you think of the herbivores are focusing on one or two plants; they're going to eat 'em up and they won't reproduce, so the plants have to have defenses. And I got into secondary chemical defenses and tied in with some of the work that was being done here by students, our students as well as faculty. And so it broadened me. It's sort of like this thing I'm working on now with the geology of St. Matthew Island. How it relates to coastal erosion? Which is very much tied to the colonial nesting sea birds.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah, that's what I was thinking. You were very broad in your approach to the research you do, and is that typical for somebody in your field or people seem to --

DAVID KLEIN: It's not typical, but it is -- there's others that have done the same thing. And not perhaps as broad as I have been. And that part of the fact that I've had this advantage of being here for a long time, but also working under the territory and Fish and Wildlife and then the coop unit, which I mean you can't – In the university system where the students are budding into projects and you have to help them get started, I mean you have to become broader and broader in your thinking. And that's what I love. But you can't separate this from the fact that I love being out in the field. With the students or with anybody else. And part of that was just enjoying life, but enjoying life where – you know, when you stop and think about it and you could rationalize that you were training the students even though we were doing ski trips and things. And we were both having a wonderful time in life. The students. And so was I. I mean, I was growing, and developing in my own way. But -- and with Pat and Audrey, I mean it was -- and my daughter and I -- oldest daughter, and we -- we just loved this getting out in the field where we were out with nature and where you could see -- read all this information about wildlife that we're all interested in.

PAT VALKENBURG: Yeah, it was great. I do remember one trip that we made with an airplane where you needed to land on an icy lake and I agreed to land there, and in the process we knocked a ski off the plane.

DAVID KLEIN: I remember that.

PAT VALKENBURG: And you skied down to tree line and cut a nice stubby, forked spruce, brought it back up there. And we made a lever, and levered the plane up. And I happened to have four new axle bolts and we put them on and went on our way. So we've had some adventures over the years.

DAVID KLEIN: Yup. Right

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was going to also ask if – if -- Pat, you were a student of Dave's, is that correct?

PAT VALKENBURG: I -- Fred Dean was actually my major professor, but Dave was on my committee. And I worked on grizzly bears north of Denali Park. And that was in the early and mid-1970s. But since then, Dave and I've maintained a very close relationship and cooperated on caribou projects and what not.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because you went on to work for Fish and Game and study caribou?

PAT VALKENBURG: I went on to work for Fish and Game in 1977. I worked for Fish and Game for twenty-eight years as a caribou biologist.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, Dave is very humble and doesn't necessarily talk about his contributions and accomplishments. As a fellow caribou biologist, can you comment on what his contributions to the field have been?

PAT VALKENBURG: Yeah, Dave's contributions have been tremendous to not only caribou biology, but biology of northern ungulates in general. And you know, as he mentioned, his variety of graduate students from all over the world working on such a variety of mountain species like goats and sheep and musk ox and moose and caribou, provided a tremendous melting pot that we all really appreciated. All of the graduate students that we interacted with. You know, I worked on caribou, but I very much enjoyed talking and working with Dave's students on moose and sheep, and all of the other species. So Dave's leadership at the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit created this focal point for biologists from both the Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM, and the Department of Fish and Game, to gather occasionally at the University for various graduate student seminars, thesis defenses, you know, all of those kinds of things. And then, social functions after those kinds of things. And then field trips, as well. So when you put that all together, Dave's contribution to wildlife management in Alaska is really hard to overestimate. I think it's one of the most phenomenal contributions of any single person to the field of wildlife management that I can think of in, you know, in the history of the profession. So it's really a phenomenal thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

DAVID KLEIN: The one point though that Pat mentioned, which is an important point, and it was important in my career. And that is the international connections. And that you know, that six months in Denmark the first time, I was doing a study of roe deer. It was sort of like a sabbatical leave, but I had to go with the family and I had to save up vacation time and we had to find a rental for our house. And then I did the same thing for a full year in -- and had the Fulbright Grant to cover travel expenses, but had to work out a deal. Both cases I worked out a deal where the research was done in collaboration with the Danes in Denmark and then the Norwegians at the University of Oslo where I gave some lectures, etc., but I was involved in research there. And then, this stimulated more

connections and with all the Scandinavian countries and Finland, and then official exchanges with Russia and with the Soviet Union under the Nixon-Brezhnev Détente Agreement on Science Exchanges. This Arctic work, making connections with people, and the Scandinavian ones and then -- some of my grad students were from Canada, and so it was this circum-Arctic experiences for me, and that was, stimulated --

PAT VALKENBURG: And those kinds of connections led to graduate students --

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

PAT VALKENBURG: -- who came to Alaska.

DAVID KLEIN: And we had official exchanges with the University of Copenhagen, as well as the Agricultural University in Norway. And this thing just continued to grow in a very positive way for me. And I've -- I had post-doc's over from -- those that worked with Fish and Game and did studies and it was -- To me it -- things couldn't have gone better in terms of what I had aspired for, but also I gained so much more, that I wasn't aware how important these international connections were. As well as the connections in North America. One of the things that I did -- Are we still on?

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm mm.

DAVID KLEIN: One of the things I did as the coop unit leader in the early days is I tried to convince our supervisor in Washington, DC that we ought to have exchanges between the units. You know, the unit leaders and assistant leaders should have exchanges. And the guy who was heading us up then, Reid Goforth, was -- he thought that's a good idea, but I don't see how we can do that with the budget. And I said, well, if we did these exchanges, we'd keep it down to a minimum, and they'd be a two- week exchange so you wouldn't have to fill somebody in and so we'd live in the unit leader's home and vice versa, when they came for their visit. And we'd involve them in activities. And so I worked out the first exchange through the unit program was with Ohio Cooperative Unit, and Alaska. And the unit leader there is a terrific guy, and people -- Another unit said, how come you would go to exchange with Ohio? There's not much there. From Alaska? Alaska maybe, but not -- And I said, that was a terrific trip because we --

PAT VALKENBURG: There's no mountains in Ohio!

DAVID KLEIN: But just had wonderful waterfall marshes and they took -- you know, he took me around, and I took him up in the north and we did a ski trip and he managed to freeze a toe. In a snow cave up in Atigun Canyon. And I did the same with the Arizona assistant unit leader, who was an ardent photographer and I included him on the field trip down to Southeast Alaska. And, oh man, it was so great to have someone like that along with the students. I mean, not just me. And I did this and other ones when we had – oh, what's his name, that was from Montana? He did his sabbatical here. Another name that doesn't pop in my mind. But it -- to have these people coming and get involved in unit programs that -- to me it was -- I was creating a learning environment that was so good

for the students, as well as for me, and for the person who was visiting. So at any rate, that thing never went beyond three exchanges that I was involved with.

PAT VALKENBURG: Yeah. I think that's a key statement right there. Creating a really good learning environment over the years. I think that's probably you hit the nail on the head there, Dave, that's probably --

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Well some of the things we did which was sort of a unit was that Schist Creek cabin. A tent camp. And I got -- had to go and get a permit you know to do this, and -- but it was -- I couldn't have done it by myself.

PAT VALKENBURG: Yeah we had a whole train of people on skis hauling sleds and --

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. And we hauled in this stuff that was --

PAT VALKENBURG: And on the way you get to see ptarmigan and caribou.

DAVID KLEIN: It was an expedition. But it was a team effort. It was so much -- terrific people.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it definitely seems that Dave you get great pleasure in your students, in training up and coming new young biologists in wildlife management.

DAVID KLEIN: Oh definitely, definitely. Yup.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great. So Pat, do you have any other questions? Or things you want to say? Shall we call it an evening on that happy note?

DAVID KLEIN: Fine with me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

PAT VALKENBURG: That sounds good.

DAVID KLEIN: Yup

[END TAPE 3]