Name: David Klein
Date of Interview: October 31, 2014
Location of Interview: Home of David Klein in Fairbanks, Alaska
Interviewer: Karen Brewster

Brief Summary of Interview: Mr. Klein starts this interview off by sharing a story about aging, and then he moves on to his time in Boy Scouts and discusses his view of the organization. He also shares a story about when he got lost as a young child, stories of when he was a teenager, various jobs he had, some of his military experiences, and he talks about going to a public hearing concerning Park Service laws for preserves.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay, today is October 31, 2014 and it's Karen Brewster and Dave Klein. And we were going to talk a little bit today about your work in Portugal and maybe some of your sabbatical work in Norway, is that right?

DAVID KLEIN: We could do that, yeah. Only, that wasn't my understanding. But, at any rate.

KAREN BREWSTER: You go ahead with what your understanding was.

DAVID KLEIN: Before we start out I think --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you have a story to tell?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, it's about, you know, you've got to see the lighter side of things. You've got to see the lighter side of things. And you have to face up to aging. It's hard to do because most younger people think that when you get into your 80's, you've had all these experiences and so you know all the answers about the future. But when you're 80, you've never experienced the 90's. And so none of your friends that are younger than you know anything about that anyway. And they don't even know about the 80's because they've never been there. And so at any rate, I had my annual physical with the doctor, local doctor, and I'd had some of the standard lab tests and everything. And she said, "Well, all of this is -- it looks like you're in pretty good shape for your age. And now I'm going to give you a cognitive test, which they now are doing for older people." And I said, "Well, okay." And I wasn't prepared for this, but --

KAREN BREWSTER: You hadn't studied for the test.

DAVID KLEIN: That's right. And you're not supposed to study for it. And so she said, "I'm just going to read from this paper and I want you to give answers quickly, and not to think too much about it." So she went through this whole thing and early on she mentioned three items, and she said I might come back to those later. And when she came back to those later, it was three items, simple items like a pencil or a fountain pen was

one of them, and then the others were simple things that I can't remember, like dog or something. So at any rate, then she went through the whole thing and she says, "Well, here's the results." Said, "You did fine on everything. In fact, very good for your age, but you flunked one section." She has a good sense of humor and she knows that I was a former professor, but flunking something, that's pretty bad. "You flunked one section." And I said, "Oh, what section was that?" And she says, "That was short-term memory."

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh.

DAVID KLEIN: And I said, "I already knew that. I already knew that. And I'm already doing something to compensate for it." She said, "What was that?" "But I can't afford it, because I can't afford to buy so God damn many sticky tapes to stick all over everything." At any rate, she got a laugh and so did I.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good.
[break in tape] Okay, so we are back now.

DAVID KLEIN: So we're ready to go again?

KAREN BREWSTER: We're ready to go again. We're going to talk about Boy Scouts.

DAVID KLEIN: Well yeah, because when I was a young guy, let's see what age -- Well, I guess I remember from when we lived in Vermont and I was really too young for Boy Scouts and there was a little village where it was hard to organize a troop. But there was a regional troop and my father was an assistant leader for the -- he volunteered for that because he thought Boy Scouts was a good deal. And then we moved to Connecticut and then once I lived -- when I lived in a small town there east of Hartford, on a little piece of land where we could have a garden and chickens and pets and I had a goat, etc. But I joined a Boy Scout troop that met in the basement of the church that my mother went to and we went to as Sunday school students. At that stage in family life, I should point out that my dad was at least a deist or maybe an agnostic, but he was very tolerant of religious beliefs. And my mom was fairly religious for a Protestant. And she wanted us kids to go to Sunday school and church until -- according to the agreement she and my father had made, until we were 11 years old.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, okay.

DAVID KLEIN: And then it was our choice as to whether we went to these deals. So at any rate, I wanted to be in Boy Scouts. My brother was in Boy Scouts, he's two years older. And yeah, it was a good experience and the things that interested me most were camping and hikes. And this was when we lived in Connecticut, and those sort of how to build lean-to's and all about nature. Living with nature including how to trap, how the first trappers trapped with snares and other things, and how to set all these things. So then I also volunteered after I had been in the scouts for a while and moved ahead in different grades from tenderfoot to first class, and then star. And so then my ultimate goal was Eagle Scout. And I was -- volunteered to be a Cub Scout leader, where we met in

some home of somebody who -- where the house mother was -- sort of had oversight over your activities but with the kids, but you were like in charge of the meetings. And we'd do hikes with these young Cub Scouts and teach them the basics that once they eventually would go into scouting. And I loved all that. I like kids, and younger kids and myself as -- And I liked kids, in general, and liked scouting and I didn't -- You know, in those days we weren't all that fluent in, not fluent economically, let's say. We were recovering from -- family was recovering from the Depression, even though it was the pre-war and jobs were paying more and we had bought this land and we were -- Life was, from my perspective, was great for the whole family. And I was the most oriented towards the land of my two siblings, and older siblings. Although, my brother was an ardent fisherman/hunter and he had had some of the advantages of dad's instructions in those areas. But by the time I got old enough for that, then the war was on, Second World War was on, and he was working night shifts, 12 hours, making a big salary, which helped with this house and he was renovating and helped us to get financially stable as a family and had to have a car to -- a good car to get to work in Hartford, which was like about a 12-hour drive. And so it was a negative for me in some respects, because I didn't get dad's influence so much as I had before. Although, on the weekends we would have time together, but it was more chance. And we'd have one meal a day usually with him, the evening meal before he went to work and was the end of the day for us. And it was good. The family -- my parents both felt that was all important that we had at least one meal a day where we sat down and could be together as a whole family. And those were, to me, it's one of the strongest things about the family relationship. Not just that the parents were good parents, they were, but when we were together as a family we could discuss these whole things, and all the three of us children were there together, too. And you get a better feeling for the -- we're all individuals and sometimes, especially among us children, one would have interests that are quite different than the others, and that sometimes led to some conflicts and parents were good at working us out, or letting us work them out. So, at any rate --

KAREN BREWSTER: So how old were you when you started with the Boy Scouts then?

DAVID KLEIN: You had to be 12 years of age, I'm pretty sure, to join the Boy Scouts. For the Cub Scouts, it was younger.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, but so you must have been around 12 then because you didn't do Cub Scouts, did you?

DAVID KLEIN: No, I didn't do Cub Scouts. And partly because where I lived so rurally, it was hard when you're that small to do that because how do you -- you did this after school and then on the weekends --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: -- if you did hikes. And you had to organize getting there, and that was a little problem for me as a Cub Scout leader, but I was -- could do that on the way home from school.

KAREN BREWSTER: But when you guys lived in Vermont when you were little, it was too hard to do Cub Scouts because you were too rural?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what was it that inspired you about being in Boy Scouts? I mean, you've talked about it was a big influence on you, and so I assume it means throughout the rest of your life. And so in what way?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, it was largely because I was fascinated with nature, with plants and animals, and especially natural vegetation and wildlife. And that's important in scouting. And you learn about how to track animals in the snow and things like that. And when you do the merit badges, then they have special merit badges that you can focus your interests even more. And sometimes you do the studies and you work with a merit badge advisor as a local person, usually males but not necessarily exclusively so then, about the topic. They're sort of local experts on the topic. And so then you do this project and then if you qualify they sign off for you and you get a merit badge. And then you have to accumulate these merit badges and you have to have, I think 21, the minimum of 21 in order to be an Eagle Scout. But there were some like core badges that you had to have, like physical education was one, which included athletics and there was a lot of emphasis on training and performance. There were others that you had that were basic, but then there were a lot of sort of like in schools or in the university, elective kinds. And so, yeah, and it was a -- at that age, you know, collecting a large number of merit badges was great and you had a banner and your mom would sew these things on and at formal scout meetings you could wear that banner. And if you had all these, like wearing medals. And these -- the wearing medals and wearing badges and having a uniform was part of scouting, but you had to be careful. I felt you had to be careful about that. I didn't think it was all that important especially, you know, there was special knickers that you had to buy and a lot of money, commercial interests were in selling Boy Scout uniforms. And yet Boy Scouts are open to people of all economic ages then, at least in New England. There were some in the south there was racial discrimination and they had black troops and white troops and different churches, of course, that supported those kind of people. Whereas, in New England at that time before the civil rights movement, we had one black guy who was -- we knew him because he was in the -- by that time I was in high school, I think. So we had a broader area that was covered and he was -- we never thought of him, of the racial issue. We thought of him as a fun guy, a nice guy everybody liked and we just didn't understand racial discrimination. Although, we saw blacks sometimes in the -- they grew tobacco in the Connecticut River Valley near where I lived. They'd do two kinds of tobacco. Some that was grown outside, exposed. And the others were grown in a thin, sort of like a cheese cloth tent, which was called shade grown, where they could control the humidity inside and let the humidity get higher and then open up the sides if it got too hot, so the plants would wilt. But the idea was to get the plants to grow fast and produce the leaves. The leaves were harvested separately and they were wrappers for cigars, whereas the grown outside in the open they were sort of coarser leaves and you cut the whole plant at one time and hung them up to dry in the sheds.

Whereas, the others had to be -- women had to sew the leaves on in pairs in the sheds. And once they were dried, they took them all down. Stacking them up was a big operation. And the sheds opened with timbers and then they took them all down. And the women would be at tables there and they would sort and ultimately strip the veins out of the center of the leaves. And then they do this when the leaves were almost dry but flexible. So they wanted it be flexible so they wouldn't crack and break up. And then they would put these together and then they would end up with bundles of tobacco that could be shipped off to places that made cigars. In fact, we shipped a lot to Cuba because they were known to be the best cigar makers at the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I didn't know that tobacco grew in the Connecticut River Valley. I think of tobacco as from the south.

DAVID KLEIN: I know, but this is high quality, really highest quality stuff. And the shade grown, meant that you can control the temperature and humidity and get optimal growth. And, although there weren't a lot of insects that attacked tobacco, but there are a few. And they would keep insects out, but it was mainly for work -- and it was harder in some ways working in the shade grown, because you worked on your -- Well, if you were picking, you sit on your butt and drag yourself along and picked one leaf from each side. Row and [inaudible@18:10] and put them together and you laid them in a basket, laid them between the plants. And you could stack those pairs up between the plants as you went along the row. And then someone would drag a canvas basket, like a basket, shaped like a square, rectangular basket about so high. And you would put -- the one that was carrying those would have a handle and you could get the loop -- there were two handles on either end. You could hook one of those handles and walk along there and you had to bend over and load the basket very carefully with these leaves that hadn't wilted. So you had to put them -- stack them carefully and then they would -- when it filled it up, you put this canvas over the top. You dragged it out into the open and just unhooked it and came back. In the meantime, someone would come by, in the early days, with a horse and wagon, later with a tractor pulling -- they were wagons. And these would be stacked on the wagon, and then they would go as much as a mile to these tobacco sheds where they would take them into the sheds. And then there were workers in there that would -- the women were in there. And then they sewed -- take these two leaves out that were paired together and they would have, of course, a needle that they could thread -- very easily threaded with a string. And thread it with string and sewed these. Put one end they'd hook around a lathe like they used in those days to put on the wall and then they plaster over them. They were called lathes. And they were about --

KAREN BREWSTER: Like 5, 4 feet?

DAVID KLEIN: A little less than 4 feet, I think. And then there was a saw niche in either end. So the women would have stands that they could put these on while they were doing this, and they would hook the string around one end and sew these leaves on it. And then spaced out in a special way so the same pairs -- number of pairs of leaf for every one of these lathes. Then they would take that and put it on another deal. So it

wasn't too heavy, but it was heavy enough. You had to be careful. Set it there, and then there were guys that were -- then would move that up into the top and fill this whole barn.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, for smoking.

DAVID KLEIN: Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: For like drying it.

DAVID KLEIN: For drying.

KAREN BREWSTER: It's kind of like a smokehouse concept.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, except it was mainly, yeah. And then once they get it filled, then someone came and made sure the temperature stayed right. And you wanted this to happen in late summer when it was pretty warm. But you had -- about every other board up was on a hinge on the outside of the barn. And could open -- they could open them up to allow more air in if it was getting too hot. You didn't want it to get too hot, then it would sort of like cook.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: And then if it was getting too cold and frost at night, they would have to build a little -- You know, it was a dirt floor. They'd take a pan, like a wash basin-sized metal pan, put some charcoal in and started burning. And it would just -- charcoal. And they'd space those out to put enough heat in so that these things wouldn't freeze while they're drying. And then usually it was just at night. And when it was dried, again they had people to take them down and then -- the woman took them back off these lathes and strip the mid-vein out of the leaf, and the leaves were still flexible but almost dry. And some of the flexibility was oils and what along with a little bit of moisture, but not much. So that they would no longer -- you could pack them together and they were dry enough so you wouldn't get decomposition or mold inside. And they were shipped that way in bundles of these together, big bundles, and shipped to where they were made into cigars.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now were most of the people working there African Americans?

DAVID KLEIN: No, they were mostly local peoples at first. And there were a lot of -- in that community where I -- these were mostly Polish people who had come over, and some of them were farmers and some of them were -- they were immigrants living in poor housing than other, but not too poor because the other people weren't too well off and there weren't that many jobs. And some of the other higher paying jobs might go to non -- it was the Polish women who did a lot of this work. And it was a good way for women to work together and they worked well together because it was like a lot of conversation. And they did -- they worked well. In the fields, it was like any young people under supervision of older people. And the open grown, and as well as in shade

grown, you had to -- young people or people had to be hired to go through when the tobacco was growing before you were going to pick the leaves. You wanted the emphasis for the plant to go in leaves.

KAREN BREWSTER: Not the flowers.

DAVID KLEIN: Whereas the plant was trying to flower and produce seeds. So you had to top fields, preferably when they're young and so they would snap off, 'cause they didn't snap off -- you couldn't do it with your fingers, your hands, it was too tough. So the timing of that was crucial. And to get in there before it started getting tough. And then there were suckers that came out. If you took the tops off, and should these suckers come out between the leaf and the stem, you wanted to stop those because you wanted everything to go into the leaves. And that -- if you worked there, you snapped it off between your index finger and mid-finger and held it in there with your thumb and you -- there was a trick to do it right. You had to do it quickly, and once you did it and learned how to do it without it not breaking properly and then you tried to work it around and get it off. And you had to be fast. You did it as a team working down the fields and if someone just left behind it was because they weren't doing it right. And so somebody would say, "You've got to speed up if you're going to work here." And so then you worked for, not a full day. That was in high school, and it was the best paying work while you're still a student in the summertime. And it wasn't very good pay, but at least you got paid by the hour and if you put in the hours. And in hot weather it wasn't the greatest, too. And then you had to come home and you had this smell of nicotine all over your fingers and it couldn't wash it off initially. It'd take -- the stain would be there for quite a while, like two or three weeks after you stopped working in the fields. But it was outdoor work and it was -- you worked hard and worked as a team, so you weren't by yourself. You were with other people, and so you could have some joviality and connection with other people as long as you continued to do things fairly rapidly.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you did this work when you were in high school?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: As a summer job?

DAVID KLEIN: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's why you know so much about it.

DAVID KLEIN: It is. But I was -- and if you -- You had to be proactive in lining up those jobs because they were the -- if you were in a rural committee there weren't many jobs. You know, the only other things I could do to make money is, you know, if there were neighbors that wanted -- shoveled their driveways in the winter but that was during school. Or I had a paper route, when I had a bicycle, and I could do a paper route, which you didn't make much money that way. You did that after school, but it was thumb money and the income from my father was needed so badly just to feed us and pay for the

house and the heating and all of that. So it was understood, we had an allowance but the allowance was very minimal. And so then -- And when you get your own money, then, of course you could decide on how you wanted to spend that, whereas your parents were still paying for your clothes and everything else. And plus it was -- You know, what would you do if you didn't have that first layer (?) time in the summertime. And so it was good. You learned the work ethic and it led to -- well my neighbor, a guy who was a close friend in school. We were close buddies and his uncle, I think it was, had a supervisory position in this tobacco company that grew the shade grown. And so he was able to work out a deal. Well, we'd bought an old car and it cost us 25 bucks. It was one of these old 1924, I think it was, touring car, you know, that had a top, a canvas top and that had long since gone so it was like wide open there to the weather. And it was -- and this was during the -- now, during the second -- beginning of the Second World War and so you couldn't get -- buy -- we didn't have any money to speak of. So we'd get old junk tires and then you'd get -- you would --

KAREN BREWSTER: You couldn't buy gas.

DAVID KLEIN: Couldn't buy gas, but we could usually scrounge a little bit of gas to get started. But the lack of gas was critical, but we wanted to be able to get enough to get this thing going. And then once we did get it going, he got a job through his uncle where he and I would spray paint some of these tobacco sheds, these big barns. So we had -- they provided the ladders, they provided the compressor and the spray equipment, which were really long hoses because you had to go way up on these big, long ladders. These are tall barns. And then the spray -- the compressor and what was on a little cart, a metal cart with smaller wheels, but we could tow that with our old car. So they gave us enough gas to do this, including gas that we'd have to use to clean out those at the end of the day. And clean out everything so they wouldn't get stuck up with paint. Flush out all the paint. And that was where we were -- we would try to be super careful with using gas and maybe have a little extra that we could use. And then it just broke our heart to have all of this paint filled gas that we used to wash things out. And like we'd have at least a couple of gallons of that. And so then we thought, well let's strain it through cheese cloth and then try burning it. And that wasn't a good deal because we couldn't get it out.

KAREN BREWSTER: A lot of water in that gas.

DAVID KLEIN: It stuffed up the fuel lines on the car and the carburetor and everything. We had to go through and take everything out and clean it out again and decided we don't do that. But then we did other things occasionally. Once you got it going on the level -- Well, to get it going you had to -- it had a 12 volt system whereas most of the cars that were being made then were 6 volt. And so we couldn't afford to buy 12 volt batteries. I mean, that would have been -- They were very expensive then and not very many of them were being made. And so we realized, you could use a 6-volt but you couldn't -- wouldn't run the starter. It wasn't strong enough. So then you had to crank it and it was a fairly heavy engine that's -- had to be really careful about cranking cars. If it backfired, you held it in such a way that when it backfired it wouldn't break your thumb.

So we learned all these tricks. But sometimes we didn't have enough gas and we wanted to go someplace. So if you didn't have any hills to go over, you could use kerosene.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

DAVID KLEIN: And it's sort of like -- it's close to diesel. And once it was going, you know, it would continue to go on diesel, or kerosene, but it wouldn't have much power compared to gasoline. I remember one time there was this weekend trip out to a lake, but to get there we had to go over this hill, on a good highway for the area, a good highway, paved highway out of Manchester to -- And I think it was Bolton, no Coventry Lake, where one or more students' families had a cabin on the lake. So we, us guys, like four or five of us in this one car, which we all chipped in what we could but we couldn't buy enough gas so we used -- mixed some kerosene in with the gas. And we took off and we got this one hill and we, you know, got a good start but then gradually we could see, "Oh well, are we going to make it or not over the top?" Because there was -- it wasn't getting as much power and then the cars were starting to back up behind us. It was probably in the evening when people were coming home from working and shops and where. And so when we got almost to the top and it was starting to level off. My buddy who had instigated all this, he was driving it, and he said, "You guys have to get out and push or we're not going to make it." It was still running but it needed extra help so we're all out pushing this thing. And there's this car behind us, and at first they were pissed off because we were holding up, but then it was so funny for them to see us all out there. And we finally made it over the top and then we were home free, you know, going down hill from there. And so we had a great time. And we had one accident though. We were going downhill on this little wood road going down to the lake and it was kind of gravelly and going a little too fast and we couldn't stop. The brakes weren't very good anyway and then on gravel the wheels are liable to slide in different directions. So we went off the road and hit a tree, a small tree about six inches in diameter, by one of the fenders then. And the car stopped and we were so impressed by how tough they used to make these cars because there was a slight dent in this black fender because it was so thick and tough. And we were able to push it back onto the road and continue along. So at any rate we had a lot of fun with that old vehicle and there were -- We're getting astray, but I think this is important. And that was -- we occasionally would drive that to school if we had -- and the weather was good in the spring time, with this beautiful weather, yeah, that was nice. So we would drive it to school and that was -- it was such a unique old antique that -- but it was also a junker, considered, and we parked that out. And the other kids, you know, got a big kick out of it but then there were a lot of, of course, prankish kids. Us included. And we'd been involved in some pranks. So one time they got -- there was -- they were making these kind of fire crackers you could hitch onto the spark plugs. And you take the wire off a spark plug and you hook it onto it and then hook the other wire onto where the spark plug was. And you used do it onto the spark plug, that's right. You take the wire off. And that triggered the thing to explode.

KAREN BREWSTER: When you started it?

DAVID KLEIN: When you tried to start it, it would explode. And it was a mild explosion, but with a lot of smoke coming out of it and steam, like "ca-bang" and then this stuff would come out. I remember when we came out and jumped in the car, there's nobody around and thought that was strange. They were all hidden and watching from a distance in shrubbery and what. Then -- what was his name, I'll remember his name in a minute. He put the key in and caboom. And so we just leaped over the side and ran like heck. We thought the whole thing was going to go up. And then we heard all this laughing, so they had one on us then.

KAREN BREWSTER: They got you back.

DAVID KLEIN: Probably, or started another round, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well so back to the Boy Scouts theme of, you know, how that affected the rest of your life.

DAVID KLEIN: The crucial part of that is that, you know, I thought the Boy Scouts was the greatest, but I was still in high school and I lived remotely so to get there I had to take two commercial buses and they didn't -- to different -- one to the one town and then another one made connections there. And I couldn't stay and try out for -- I couldn't do any athletics, team sports and stuff, because then I would have no way home.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now that was with Boy Scouts or that was with the high school?

DAVID KLEIN: That was the high school. However, its relationship to Boy Scouts was I had this -- I had like more than enough merit badges to be an Eagle Scout but I hadn't done the athletics one. So I had to -- there were only two advisors for athletics and they were coaches for the cross-country coach as well as the hockey/swimming coach. And they were both advisors for that and their plan -- if you wanted to get your merit badge, you had to try out for their team, and practice and stay on the team and get involved in meets, etc., which meant you had to stay after school for the training and practicing and then find your way home. Well we -- family had this one car, and they didn't have the money anyway, or the gas to come and pick the kids up after school. It was like about a round trip six or seven miles from where I lived. And so if I had -- if the weather was good, I might be able to do it with my bike, but this would violate the family plan of having dinner together. And I would have gone with that but it wasn't realistic because I would get back much too late. I wouldn't -- it'd be 9 o'clock or so before I'd get back and still had homework to do and have dinner. And so it -- The attitude was, well, these coaches said, "Well, that's -- the only way we can do it is that way." They didn't have the time to take you on as a special person and be a tutor or something. And so I was frustrated because I couldn't get this done, and that was the only thing that was holding up being an Eagle Scout. So then I went -- When I graduated from high school, I was going to be drafted, and I enlisted in the Navy and served in the military. Well, military service I began to reflect back on Boy Scouts and I realized Boy Scouts -- I was not big on military service but I was glad to be able to serve my country during that war, the Second World War, when it was -- there was no question, there was a real threat to

societies because of the Nazis and their tremendous impact starting in Europe and that the United States had to get into the war. And my father, who was somewhat of a pacifist, definitely a pacifist, but he -- because he had family background in Europe, in Switzerland and France, and my mother in England, that. yeah, I mean it was obvious that we shouldn't abandon Europe that was trying to hold off the Nazis taking over, literally, the world. And so -- and then, of course, then the Japanese joined them, as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: So do you think the Boy Scouts prepared you for being in the military?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Boy Scouts was started by Lord Baden-Powell, who was -- he lived in Rhodesia in southern Africa and made money from investing in the mines or what. But his idea was that this was good training for young people, for the military in colonial countries as well as in other countries. Which was, you could say, yeah, that's probably true. But the emphasis was on military training, which there must be -- there's some logic to that but on the other hand, being training to defend yourself and live in the bush, could be valuable especially -- but that wasn't the way the British liked to fight. So I mean, of course, that's in a military war and certainly in Africa if they got into a war there, which they did, then it was preparation for the military. And, of course, this was true in the Soviet Union. They had young communist groups that they did a lot of camping out and sort of mirrored the Boy Scouts, and so did the Nazis. The Nazi youth, big emphasis on, and on being a good soldier, being a good solider, as well. And that means taking the discipline, military discipline, and learning how to use tools and stuff, and even firearms safely, etc. So I began to feel that there must be some other way, plus also then I realized that they were -- the Boy Scouts were discriminating in the U.S. between -- In the south. That blacks, where we'd had blacks in New England in the Boy Scouts and in the schools and we didn't -- Not a lot of them, a few of them, but there was no pronounced racism. If there was any ethnic animosity, it was usually toward the recent European immigrants. I mean, like the Italians were looked down upon because they were more recent, yet gradually realized, whoa, Italian food is wonderful, they produced great restaurants and they were good people once -- so they tended to be tough guys sometimes with knives. And then earlier when we lived in Hartford for a short time right in the city when we first moved down, the neighborhood which was mainly French Canadian and the kids were going to parochial schools. And we were going to public schools. We had to walk through that neighborhood, my brother and I. And there were little gangs of, you know, third and fourth grade and fifth grade kids that would hang out after school on the sidewalks, you know, that were adjacent to the street. There were no playgrounds right in that area. And we had to go through there. And here we were, two -- we were like aliens in a foreign community. And it was a good experience in the long run, but we got into a few fights. We learned to run fast, and know when to run. And I even got lost right after we moved there because we'd only been there for a week or so and my brother had made a chum friend, and he -- so he brought him home and he suggested we go to a museum that was about probably ten blocks away, through a park and a strange, totally strange neighborhood. So the three of us went and this guy knew the way. We went. And the parents agreed to all this because he was a nice guy and they had a good relationship with my brother, but I was a couple of years younger than them. And

so I was the younger brother, but they would look after me, you know. So we went to the museum, got there okay. And it was, you know, in a home and it was -- You know, they had some stuffed animals and it was nice to be able to do that. In those days, they weren't much on museums then and especially for kids. So then, we started back and going through one of these parks, which had trails going in different directions, that we got confronted by a gang of kids. And so we had to run like hell. I got left behind.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah, you -- Yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: And so they came back and looked for me and they couldn't find me. So they went home. And I was trying to find them, of course, and there was -- I don't know these kids that were just passing through that created the problem probably, like us. So I finally went back to the closest place I could remember, but it was where there were shops. And, you know, I thought, well, I'll go and get some help from a policeman, I thought. But then I realized I didn't even know my address. And we had just moved in there so my name didn't have any meaning. I didn't know my address, there was no phone number or anything like that. And so I was embarrassed to stop and ask a policeman, you know, where I was because you know -- Where I was? I was there.

KAREN BREWSTER: You're right here.

DAVID KLEIN: And so I was beginning to feel real bad because I realized I was in an awkward situation. And it was getting late in the evening, you know, and just starting to get a little dark, and I thought, "Oh man, what do I do?" Well, I should have gone into a store and said, "I'm lost." And they at least would have tried to find -- but it was an awkward situation. And I was out on the street and, you know, breaking down and crying wouldn't have done any good. You know, it's like the end of the world for me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you were what eight?

DAVID KLEIN: I was about -- Pardon?

KAREN BREWSTER: You were about how old, eight years old, nine years old?

DAVID KLEIN: About eight, six, seven. Yeah, eight. Yeah, or 7 ½, yeah. And so just about when I probably would have started crying and maybe a policeman or somebody would have taken some action. but I looked up there and ah, [sighs] there's my father coming around -- He was out doing a search. And so, ah, man, that was nirvana. So at any rate, back to Boy Scouts. I mean, by the time I got out of the Navy and gone through all the military training and basic training and all of that, I thought I was -- and then the reason I got out of the Navy was because the war was over. And so I thought, I don't think I want to be in the military. I had a chance to stay in because I was in a flight training program and you had to stay in for six years after you completed the training and got your commission and, you know, it would have been perhaps a good thing to do but I didn't like military service. I enjoyed some of the times because of the guys I was with. You know, you bonded with young people your age and they were in the same boat you

were. And they were nice guys because they were -- come from similar backgrounds and yeah, it was -- but I wasn't doing to well as a student because we were taking courses and there was heavy emphasis on things like trigonometry and math. And those were not my strong suits in high school and I suffered for not doing very well in high school, but I was squeaking along and probably would have gotten through okay. But then the war is over and we either had to make a decision to go into the regular Navy, in which case -- until you got discharged. So that meant another 6 months because priority for discharge was on people that were in the war. And so we worked at naval training station and took basic training there in -- north of Chicago, the Great Lakes Navy Training Station. And that was, you know, guard duty, KP duty, and what have you. And, so when I got out I realized that I didn't -- I was pretty much decided that I was a pacifist and didn't want to get involved in wars in the future. Of course, a lot of people that fought in the war came to the same conclusion of the Second World War that they wouldn't have to go again. And many of them didn't have to go again. But I had this -- I could have been, perhaps gone and -- but then there was this different situation when you came back from the war. Main thing was on getting a job. And I wanted woods work and I found it and that was great. And having been in Boy Scouts helped me but also I had -- The reason I got into the Boy Scouts was because I liked that kind of thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now, did you quit the Boy Scouts or you stayed through it 'til you graduated high school?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, you don't really quit the Boy Scouts. I mean, you -- there probably were some dues but they were minor. And you were sort of -- you didn't lose ground if you stopped, you could come back in again. And so then the way I had sort of decided, do I really want to go through this just to get an Eagle Scout to prove that I could do it? And yeah, that was something that said I'd wanted that, but on the other hand I didn't really like the idea of it. I didn't like the idea that -- by that time there were different -- they were starting a movement that girls -- You know, said why couldn't they join the Boy Scouts instead of the Girl Scouts? And well, that created a problem for the Boy Scouts. And then there was this discrimination in the south. And so I decided, no, I don't really want to be an active Boy Scout. But then when I was drafted into the Army here in Alaska in the Korean War, and I was based at Ladd Field, which is what Fort Wainwright -- in the 4th Infantry. And I volunteered to be in a Scouts platoon, because I knew we were going to stay in Alaska for one thing. But we did all kinds of nice trips. We had a dog kennel with two dogteams and we did dog trips, dog sled trips and we did riverboat trips and what. And then there was a Boy Scout camp at Lost Lake near Quartz Lake that they were looking for an advisor and also a merit badge examiner. And they knew my background and they asked if I'd be willing to -- and that would be -- I would advise on camping and woods work or something like that. And you had your time off and I still believed in the value of Boy Scouts for young people and young guys. So if you went there, it was like a furlough and you lived there for maybe a week or two weeks at the most. And I took kids out and did nature interpretation for them, hikes, and was an examiner for a couple of merit badges. But at that point, I had given up on the Eagle Scout and it would sort of violate my principles at that time of the -- Well, I'm not that supportive of Boy Scouts, I'd do this because I wanted the kids to learn.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you weren't supportive of Boy Scouts because of the discrimination?

DAVID KLEIN: And military.

KAREN BREWSTER: And the military type atmosphere?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, that was largely it. And it was -- the more important aspect of it was the military type training to be soldiers. And when you train people to be soldiers, then you expect that they will be soldiers at some stage. And so you don't try to resolve issues except with a war.

KAREN BREWSTER: But, so the time you spent in the Boy Scouts, though, in the outdoors and learning about plants and animals, and survival, you think that developed your interests further? I mean, you obviously did it a little bit as a kid.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, yeah, definitely, yeah definitely. And I felt -- And I got some training there because -- to be group leaders. And Cub Scouts the same way. And then when I went into the -- when I was drafted into the Army and I went to basic training at Fort Richardson out of Anchorage, they immediately -- I had a master's degree then and all of these other guys were -- high school was as far as they --

KAREN BREWSTER: They were barely out of -- and probably barely out.

DAVID KLEIN: And so they kind of looked at me like -- they called me Doc. But they respected me enough, and whoever was in charge there decided I should be a platoon leader.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: So I was. And yeah, probably the Boy Scout experience was part of that but it was education, too, and more experience I had when I was --

KAREN BREWSTER: And so did the Boy Scouts influence your environmental philosophy?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I have to look back over this what happened in between Boy Scouts and when I got into environmental philosophy. Yeah, everything that went on in my life had some influence on it. And you might say it influenced my philosophy period. My interest in philosophy, let's put it that way. And so the environmental aspect of it, yeah, environmental philosophy sort of implies that I was an environmentalist. And in a sense I was, in that aspect of environmental philosophy was related to that but not a politically active environmentalist.

KAREN BREWSTER: But that sort of changed through time?

DAVID KLEIN: Not too much.

KAREN BREWSTER: I mean, you, at some point you have been an active conservationist?

DAVID KLEIN: I have been.

KAREN BREWSTER: You helped with the Northern Center (Northern Alaska Environmental Center).

DAVID KLEIN: It all depends on, if you're active. Because when I was wildlife unit leader there was sort of a policy there, that came out of Washington, that you shouldn't take up the leadership positions in those organizations.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: Which seemed reasonable to me. And I thought I don't want to be identified, 'cause then I was trained as a scientist --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: -- an environmental scientist. And they were -- It's important, we needed that. And I didn't want to be -- And I believed, I didn't want to be branded as an environmental activist.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But did you -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: But I belonged to Northern Alaska Environmental Center and I did serve on the board when I was wildlife unit leader. But I was on the board, I wasn't the local whatever they call it now.

KAREN BREWSTER: You weren't the director.

DAVID KLEIN: Director, I wasn't the director.

KAREN BREWSTER: You weren't the president of the board. But did you help found the Alaska Conservation Society with Ginny (Wood), and Celia (Hunter), and Fred Dean?

DAVID KLEIN: I wouldn't say I helped found. I was supportive of their efforts when I was here, but that was when I was a grad student and a short period before I got drafted into the military. And at that short period, I wasn't around much. I was in the field, working as a field technician. And so I was -- Yeah, if I was around, I went to meetings and was quite supportive. And you could say it was a development stage of the -- but I wasn't based here, And then when I took the job in Southeast, I was out of touch. And

that's when -- that was still in the formative stages of the Alaska Conservation Society whereas people like Bob Weeden, who took a job with Fish and Game later, a couple years later than I did, after we became a state. I was in Southeast and I still had some connections up here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: And especially when I worked for Fish and Game after I had completed the PhD requirements, or most of them. And I get up there, because my job required that, and interacted with other people in the cooperative unit.

KAREN BREWSER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: And then I frequently was -- if I was up here, I might -- if I was up here on a weekend or something and there was a nature --

KAREN BREWSTER: Conservation Society.

DAVID KLEIN: Conservation Society meeting, I would definitely be involved.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I somehow thought you had a role in the early days of the organization. I've seen your name associated with it or something. Did you write for the newsletter or work on issues for them? Or provide them information?

DAVID KLEIN: No, there was a close -- I got to know them a bit because we -- while I was a student we did a -- we had one trip down to Denali when that first Institute of Arctic Biology -- No, it was an Arctic Institute meeting, annual meeting, first one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Not the Wilderness Society?

DAVID KLEIN: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: The Arctic Institute?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, which was the Alaska Division of the Arctic Institute. And the meeting was held in Denali.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was at Camp Denali, you mean?

DAVID KLEIN: No, it was held at the park headquarters in the hotel. And that's when there was this Bob Rausch, the --

KAREN BREWSTER: Scientist, yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. He was there and we were there as students. But there was this debate about -- Well, Bob Rausch had worked up at Anaktuvuk Pass. There was debate

about wolf killing from the air. And they learned that you could shoot wolves from the air. And that was the Fish and Wildlife Service. And so they had a Division of Predator and Rodent Control, which was within the Fish and Wildlife Service, or maybe they called it Biological Survey or something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, at the time it may not have been -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: And so that's when Jay Hammond was a pilot working for them. And they did these -- several airplanes would go up there and they were in the North Slope where you could attract and shoot wolves from the air on the North Slope in the wintertime and make a big kill. So they ended up killing a couple hundred wolves. And the whole idea was not ecologically sound, but it wasn't -- the Fish and Wildlife Service, you know, they were criticized because why did you go up there and kill these wolves when the caribou aren't being hunted significantly. And it was, "Yes, but if we allow them to increase" the caribou bigger, at that time the idea was that that's how new herds got started, that they would fracture off and make new herds. And so it was the Western Arctic Herd, which was getting large and migrating through the Anaktuvuk Pass, as well. And then another reason, Bob Rausch's, one of his points is that the Native people hunted the wolves and that was part of their culture, too. And, of course, earlier on in the territory that was their source of income because they bountied the -- they got a $25 bounty or something like that for each wolf killed. And they could sell the wolf skins and they used them to make things, especially parkas. And they liked wolves for that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: And then they eventually started making these masks out of caribou skin.

KAREN BREWSTER: But, so your involvement with the Alaska Conservation Society, was your scientific data like on the caribou herd or other things you were observing and then they took that information and used it?
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DAVID KLEIN: Actually, the Conservation -- the Alaska Conservation Society was more involved in things at that time like the proposed Rampart Dam.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, well they opposed the wolf bounty and, you know, the pipeline issue.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, and when I was with the Department of Fish and Game, and after statehood came, the Department of Fish and Game had to be careful but we also lobbied the legislature to get rid of the bounties. Because we believed, these young biologists there, all believed that it was just a welfare program for Bush peoples primarily, but not just Bush people. And that it wasn't -- the Predator and Rodent Control went where they could kill more wolves and show a good record, where in the rainforest areas there were some areas that they could kill wolves but they couldn't kill them in big large numbers like they could on the North Slope. And then they were using all these other kinds of

poisons. We also were strong in lobbying right from the minute we became a state to get rid of poisons.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: Because that was legal to use them for trapping up until about that time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it caused all kinds of other problems. Well, the reason I was asking about the Conservation Society is Ginny would talk about, you know, there were people who supported the organization but they couldn't participate because of their jobs. Bob Weeden and Fred Dean, you know. But that those people might have scientific information that was useful to the cause so they would feed Ginny and Celia the information.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, I was in that boat.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were in that boat?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was one of your roles.

DAVID KLEIN: It was more -- It was more later, after I became unit leader.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Yeah, definitely, that I prided myself in that I had good contacts and I could pass on information.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, but you couldn't be on the board, you couldn't be visible in the organization?

DAVID KLEIN: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you didn't help get the organization started, but your role was later? And did you write things for their newsletter, too?

DAVID KLEIN: I don't recall that. Yeah, I did write one or two, I think. One on, I think it was them I wrote for, about the muskoxen on Nunivak Island. And I did it -- That was when, yeah, that might have been the Hickel administration. The first one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

DAVID KLEIN: And sort of making fun of -- Wrote it, you know, with tongue in cheek about the muskoxen as being farm animals or something like that. That Wally Hickel was

all in favor of John Teal's effort to domesticate the muskoxen. But Teal didn't want them to be shot and so Hickel went along with that, and said, "No, they shouldn't be shot."

KAREN BREWSTER: Well it's sort of the "boreal weed" concept of environmental understanding. But it still sounds to me though, you're -- you supported the conservation efforts.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah and I --

KAREN BREWSTER: And you believe in that. Philosophically, you believe in protecting animals and wild places and habitat and things like that.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. And I had connections that with Ginny and Celia and their connections including the Meaders up at Wild Lake. And so then when I came here as the wildlife unit leader, then it was -- there were potlucks that I was --

KAREN BREWSTER: So you knew them socially?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, which makes sense. I mean, you both skied, and you worked with Fred Dean who lived next door to them.

DAVID KLEIN: And I went to the meetings, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you went to the meetings.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you were all part of the same circles, but you were a little more behind the scenes in terms of the activism?

DAVID KLEIN: Right. But there was -- I had students working in Denali, too, that were connected with the Camp Denali that were close friends of Ted Lachelt.

KAREN BREWSTER: I know the name.

DAVID KLEIN: And others.

KAREN BREWSTER: He was one of your students, his wolverine work? Didn't he study wolverine?

DAVID KLEIN: No, he was -- that was before I was unit leader that -- he was a fellow student --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

DAVID KLEIN: -- that I knew well. And Les Viereck, another one that had done a lot of work there in the park, and I continued to work closely with Les here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So, what was I going to ask? I was going to ask you something about -- so philosophically, your perspective at, yeah, protecting wild places and habitat and all that, that comes from where?

DAVID KLEIN: What was the question again?

KAREN BREWSTER: You seem to believe in protecting wild places and animals and habitat and all that, so where do you think that comes from?

DAVID KLEIN: Well, from my whole life, but as my experience in New England where, you know, New England was about -- in colonial times it was about 25% forested. And then by the time I was growing up there, it was 75% forested because the early farmers that cleared the land and built the stone walls and took the stones out of the fields, they went west because land was much more productive. And they were subsistence farms that were not competitive in the long run. And so that was a start because I knew the history and some of the state forest I worked in. Yeah, if you went in one area there was an old plant that cut the trees and creosoted them for telephone poles. And that was shut down and it hadn't been cleaned up properly but it was shut down. And the state forest grew up around there and it was a beautiful forest.

KAREN BREWSTER: The forest of creosote trees? No [chuckling].

DAVID KLEIN: No, [chuckling] these were trenches with the creosote in them. But -- And I began to appreciate more. Well, getting that job, for example, in the state forest, when I came back from the Navy, and then some of my close -- two or three of my close buddies -- Well, one of them was so young, he didn't get into the Second World War. And he had already been working for -- he got an engineering degree, so he was ahead of us in getting -- he was younger.

KAREN BREWSTER: But he had gone to college while you were in the military?

DAVID KLEIN: He had a good job and working up rapidly in the military manufacturing of aircraft engines, which was close to that part of Connecticut where we grew up. And then a couple others were -- guys who figured, well, we did our service, which they hadn't -- like me, they hadn't seen any battle. So let's take it easy because there was like, servicemen's work compensation that paid you some money, and we were used to not much money.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: So here you get this free money and you could milk the system for close to a year that way. And one of them said, "Yeah, that's my plan." I said, "Well,

what are you going to do after that?" "I don't know, but probably go to the university or something." And he did and became an accountant and worked for the insurance companies. But I thought that's a kind of welfare, I don't -- Why not get a job? I mean, I wasn't just after money. In fact, money wasn't a big deal. You've got to have some --

KAREN BREWSTER: At some point.

DAVID KLEIN: -- to get by. And the main thing was so I could get a car and get a job of some kind. So we had this one woman who was a school teacher at the elementary school that roomed with us. She taught 5th and 6th grades, but I went to 7th and 8th grade there. But she taught and so she roomed with us and board. And she was a very nice woman and took a liking to me and as we ate breakfast together and sometimes other meals. And she knew -- my teacher was an older, more senior woman, and she was a good teacher. I liked her, but she was disappointed in me because she sent notes home that I wasn't performing up to my -- or her expectations.

KAREN BREWSTER: Your potential.

DAVID KLEIN: At any rate, this other woman's name was Betty Willard and she was not married.

KAREN BREWSTER: She's the one who lived with you?

DAVID KLEIN: She lived with us, yeah. And she was a very good person for me to get to know because she liked me and she would sometimes -- I was there and people had other things on the weekend or something, and she'd talk to me about -- tried to find out what my interests were. And she knew that I was searching. So she wasn't trained to be a counselor, but she wanted me to do what I really wanted to be. But she knew it was going to be nature-orientated if it was even agriculture, 'cause I liked agriculture. But then I was -- By that stage when I got out of the Navy, I was realizing that, well, something else. I was still a bit interested in agriculture but what about forestry? And that's when she -- and I was looking for work when I got out of the Navy. And she said, "Well, I have some -- " She knew somebody in a town nearby that was a -- that knew the forester at this state forest, Meshomasic State Forest, who would -- He was a fairly young guy with university training and she knew that they had a woods crew that worked. And it might be -- like there were not many jobs because there were other veterans coming back, too. And some of them were more senior. And this was fall when there weren't many jobs, outdoor jobs, but they worked all winter long. And so she said, "Well, you should go down there and talk to the forester. And maybe we can get -- " this person she knew to contact this forester and say that I'd be coming down and that I'd be a good wood worker or something like that. So I went down and talked to him. And he was a nice, likable, young guy, red-haired. And so he interviewed me. And so I was a bit young for the woods working crew and I didn't know -- I didn't have the skills but I -- the capable. I was capable. And they were very -- a lot of it was handwork.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, you've talked about that before, that job, and it was hard work.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Well, it was hard work, but it was based upon your learning to use an axe properly. And he insisted that if you get the job, you had to buy your own axe and you have to put a handle on it yourself and you have to learn how to sharpen it properly, etc., etc. And how to use it. And so it's a fairly heavy axe, and it's -- western logging was from the mid-west -- west was all double-bitted axe, so you had two sharpened blades. The eastern attitude was, no, that you got a better heft with a single headed, but you have to keep it sharp and be very careful with it. And you always carried a stone in your pocket that -- a sharpening stone. And then you could -- back at the headquarters you had a wheel and water and you could pump this wheel --

KAREN BREWSTER: To sharpen it.

DAVID KLEIN: And you had to -- when you bought this head at a certain hardware store near that forest that carried it, and the head was -- it didn't have a -- it wasn't ground down properly to be right. So you had to learn how to ground it down. And we had the other guys help me, especially there was one bachelor guy in his 40's that had worked there for many years and he was sort of a senior guy. A nice guy. And he was good at training and explaining things, and showed you how to do it and it was -- You had to be persistent and you had to have advice because you didn't know how to grind it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, as you say, it's an art and a skill.

DAVID KLEIN: Exactly.

KAREN BREWSTER: And it takes time.

DAVID KLEIN: And then once you got to use it, then you started developing the skills and you realized, yeah, it is a convenient size and works well for the type of woods we were working in. And then the other thing was a Swede saw, which you learn to use a big Swede saw that --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's one of those two-man saws?

DAVID KLEIN: No, this was the same kind we have now that you can buy them. They're very popular. And then they have a thin blade.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, like a big bow saw?

DAVID KLEIN: A bow saw, yeah. They were called Swede saws then. And --

KAREN BREWSTER: I thought a Swede saw was the one where you've got a guy on both ends.

DAVID KLEIN: No, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's a whip saw, no?

DAVID KLEIN: These were hand saws.

KAREN BREWSTER: A whip -- maybe I'm thinking of a whip saw. Anyway a Swede saw is the bow kind.

DAVID KLEIN: A whip saw might be the one because on a big whip saw, it's a two-person saw, and you don't want it to whip around. So you have to keep it --that's the job, keep it going straight. And you never push, you just pull. If you push, it screws it up. Screws the cut up and binds it. I'd learned that from my -- working with my grandfather.

KAREN BREWSTER: Your grandfather, yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: And I learned to use an axe but not the -- it was usually a smaller axe because I was younger.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, as you say, it sounds -- I mean, even from your early childhood you were doing things outdoors, you know, on a farm setting or rural setting in the woods with your grandfather and your brother. And so you just had an affinity for being an outdoors person and wanting to preserve that.

DAVID KLEIN: And learning the skills that go with it, to do it efficiently rather than using a dull axe, for example. And learning how to fell the trees and making them go where you want them to go. And that's a bit of a challenge when they're growing fairly close together. And so you don't want them to hang up. And when we're working, say like three or four of us in one pine plantation, the red pine, and the average size of the larger ones were about this big.

KAREN BREWSTER: It's that's like 8 inches, 6 inches?

DAVID KLEIN: About so big. And then they wanted them to be this big --

KAREN BREWSTER: 12 inches.

DAVID KLEIN: -- when they harvested them. And so we would thin and that would make cordwood piles, and that you had to be -- You didn't want to measure them, but they're essentially four foot. And so you had to use your axe and lay that down to know exactly the length of your axe and handle and then you laid that on there about two times to get four foot. And so then you stacked them up. Well, you could be off an inch or two and not a big deal. But you wanted this nice, neat pile of cordwood that you put where you could get to it with a tractor and a wagon from a wood road. And so then, but, when we're working like that you were frequently working just far enough apart so you couldn't see one another because you didn't want to be working where if a tree fell, it

would hit you or them. And so -- but you could hear the other guys doing this and then when one -- I don't know whether -- I don't think we yelled timber or anything because we didn't have to do that because we knew where -- And then --

KAREN BREWSTER: And you probably didn't wear hard hats?

DAVID KLEIN: I don't think so, no. And so then we -- You'd hear someone cuss like hell. You'd hear the crack as the tree was coming down and then it -- it wouldn't come crashing down and then when it hit the ground you could hear it. The branches would break and it's sort of like a loud mushing sound. But if it got hung up, [laughing] you heard cussing like hell. And then the worst case scenario was if you hung one up and you needed help because maybe your saw would get binded, stuck, because then it might pinch the saw and you needed another saw and another guy. Or you may have to cut a small tree and use it as a lever and it might take two people to do this. Well, we could do that and did it, of course, but you didn't want it to happen for you too many times in the day. And it slowed you down. So your pile doesn't get very big if you hung them up.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did you get paid by how big your pile was?

DAVID KLEIN: No, I think we got paid per day. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, as I say, you definitely had an affinity for the outdoors, so it's sort of not surprising that you became a scientist and environmentalist.

DAVID KLEIN: But I also learned a lot, of course, about trees and what, and growth and stuff there. But also learned to -- tackling a job, do it well. And so that's -- I have problems with a lot of Alaskans, young men, who are building new homes and what. They remain unfinished because -- and I was a bit that way, too, 'cause if you're going to finish it you have to have the money. So the first part, you want to make it livable, so you don't have to rent. And you move your family in and then you want it to be warm. And then you want it to have the basics, and the siding is not a basic. It comes later. The Tyvek stays on there.

KAREN BREWSTER: That stays for a long time. But, no -- but so what you just said though is important about you learned that if you're going to do a job, you do it well and you do it complete. And that's an important thing to know.

DAVID KLEIN: This is a role model that farmers provide, because a farmer can only be successful, and they have all these different kinds of jobs and that's what fascinated me about farming. There's so many different jobs, and you're --

KAREN BREWSTER: You're the guy.

DAVID KLEIN: -- you're the guy. and you have to figure out how to do them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I mean you're right.

DAVID KLEIN: And you try to do them efficiently.

KAREN BREWSTER: You're the mechanic, you're the guy plowing the field, you're the one feeding the chickens, and milking the cows.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, and you have to figure out, do I do the plowing today or to do something else today. And you still have to milk the cows and what. And if you start too early, know the soil is not -- there's too much moisture in it, gets muddied up and what. Not workable. On the other hand, you got to try to time things so the -- and you've got to think about germination. And it's very complex to be a good farmer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. You're right, it is.

DAVID KLEIN: And it's like -- And to me, it's this whole question of complexity. And it's coming out now there's some publication on complexity. And it -- there's a tendency for environmental scientists to -- for scientists, in general, to try to reduce the complexity of understanding. And it's like there's a limit to what the human brain can handle in dealing with complexity, so that's why we go to modeling, computer modeling. If things are too complex then we can't -- what are the variables that affect how a tree grows or a moose reproduces successfully in a -- and continue moose in a given area? What are the variables and how do you factor -- ? How do you factor those in? And you have to factor in the summer forage, and winter forage, then you have to factor in previous history of moose populations and what effect have they already had on the forage, what is positive in stimulating more regrowth or negative because it was too heavy? And how can that be corrected and how does that relate to the snow depth in any given winter? And how does it relate to the present density of the moose? And how does it relate to the survival and growth of the young moose? And that's where the whole systems fails in managing moose, for example, in Alaska because if it's too complex, the Board of Game and even the top administration in Fish and Game, we want a simple solution. It's like going to war is a simple solution because you don't want to deal with the complexity.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, also because sometimes it's so complex, there maybe isn't an answer. There isn't one way. There's, well, this affected that and this is that way because of that other thing, and you can't do just one thing and solve it.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, but so you have to make decisions in wildlife management. You've got to make decisions on an annual basis. Because you've got to -- you have to deal with the political aspects of wildlife management, which means hunting and use of the environment. And making those decisions, you want to do it understanding as much as possible about the variables that influence it. But there's a tendency to get focused in and that's what bugs me. Just today at the seminar and last night when I gave a presentation -- comments on the Park Service laws for the preserves. It was interesting because the Park Service thing, that was good because they -- the Park Service had these preliminary, open for comment and one -- And there were --

KAREN BREWSTER: Were there a lot of comments?

DAVID KLEIN: There were a lot of comments, although they kept everybody to about three minutes and they're pretty strict about that. One or two people went over but not too much. They just had to get it out. And once they get up there, these were these guys that, you know, they don't think about -- I mean, if you get three minutes and everybody's there and it's seven 'til nine and there's a long signup sheet, and are they going to get through or not? And what happens to the people that don't get to -- and there's some people that came later, and there's always people come later and a few that get early just to be the first ones. I was impressed by it. And the front row -- I was sitting in the second row and the guy, the Park Service guy, and then he had a woman, and they had a sheet and a paper with a big 1 and that was -- They had to explain that. That was when you're halfway through. I couldn't see her when she held that up, so I thought it was one minute.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

DAVID KLEIN: It was a little confusing. And then she held up a zero when you're finished and you should stop when that zero came up. But she was watching her close and was very good about it. And the guy that would call off the name would, he was very polite. And then he'd call the name and the person would come up, and then there was no opportunity to ask questions. They said, if we have time left over, people can come up that felt -- feel they hadn't said all they wanted to, which was true of several of us. Me included. But they also pointed out you could hand in your written comments, which I had a copy and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, I've done that where there was a hearing that I went to go testify and the waiting list was long, I was going to have to sit there for like two hours before they got to me, and so I just went home and wrote up my comments and mailed them in.

DAVID KLEIN: Oh, yeah. Well, there were people that came and didn't stay because they got late and they were long down on the list. But they got through all of the list about ten minutes before nine. And then there were a few late people that came in and they were able to go ahead. But at any rate, it was -- in front of me -- I was sitting next to a Fish and Game gal who was a former student - I forget her name - of us and she's still working for Fish and Game. And then Mary Shields was there, and Fran Mauer, and the usual people. And then sitting in front of me was this row of guys and they were like about 50 years old. I knew one of them as a -- Well, Dick Bishop was on one end. And then on the other end was Norm Amstrup. He's a builder. He's a brother of Steve Amstrup.

KAREN BREWSTER: I know Steve Amstrup's the polar bear biologist.

DAVID KLEIN: This is an older brother, a little older, not much, and he did some work on the house I built up on Chena Ridge. A really good guy and a good builder. But I knew he was an ardent hunter because I wanted him to do more work up there and he

said, --you know, I got to know him before a little bit and he said, "Yeah, I'd like to do work there but you know it's a busy season. I got to know in advance." And then I finally was ready. I wanted to contact him and he says they were too busy unfortunately. He would have liked to have done it but we could do -- probably a little later we could do staining and I said, "Well, count on it because we're going to have that done." But then I said, "Well, why couldn't you do this? Too busy?" No, he says, that's the moose season. So he had a strict rule --

KAREN BREWSTER: He was too busy because --

DAVID KLEIN: He took off for the -- he was an ardent hunter and I really liked him, so he's sitting on one side. I didn't know how he was going to present his. And then the two guys -- two or three in the middle, I couldn't believe it, they all were the same -- I could tell they were hunters and they got up there and you didn't know what they were going to say, but they talked about the importance of hunting and one of them was saying, "Yeah, and generally there's a fairly good system here." And then, bingo, they came out totally negative toward bear baiting, which I said is totally inconsistent with hunting ethics. And they went on and on. Not on it, and they used their time well. And so here the three of them were all -- of course, they mostly knew one another, but not real well. And Norm got up and he said he wasn't as strong about bear baiting, he agreed with the Park Service regulations, up to a point, he said, but basically, "We don't like more regulations." And then there was -- and Dick Bishop sort of was the same way but he felt that it was not fair treatment of the rural people compared to the urban hunters. And that we should bear that in mind, particularly in these park preserves, which made sense. And then some guy, oh, this Compeau (Craig) came in late and he was one of those that hadn't signed up initially. And when we finally went through the list then they had a new list of about eight or ten people. And he came up there, and it was like, [in a deep voice] "Well, damn them, I don't want any more regulations. And we should be able to do our own thing, This is Alaska." I mean he didn't -- it was like the State of Alaska owns park preserves, no. And so I made a point of emphasizing that park preserves are preserves intending to and well stated to maintain natural systems. And that this is a limit to what you can do without having major impact on the systems. And I didn't get around to saying too much about bear baiting because that was in the later part and I didn't have time to. And I wanted to talk about this book on bear and wolf management that I was involved with, and point out that there were two recommendations that weren't being followed by Fish and Game that were all important and that is -- that focus on habitat. And that you should understand the habitat, and that before any kind of control, predator control, that the habitat should be evaluated to determine what -- just what the status is, the carrying capacity for their target, for the prey species that you want to manage for, like moose. And then the second one was a recommendation, which I thought was a good one, because so frequently we get this polarization between state and federal. And that is the recommendation from that panel for that book was that the -- you know, it was focused on Department of Fish and Game Management. Was that the Department of Fish and Game should work more closely with other state, federal, and private wildlife organizations and management, or more wild land management, I think that was it, which meant DNR (Department of

Natural Resources), which meant DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation), which meant Native communities --

KAREN BREWTER: Native, yeah.

DAVID KLEIN: Which meant parks and refuges, and forests, federal. And if they worked together in collaboration in studying the habitat. Now it was in the early days, a lot of collaboration on the Kenai with the Kenai Refuge and the Department of Fish and Game. And a little of that continues now, not much because the present administration, top administration, got so politicized, you know, "We don't want to work with the federal government. We know what's best." And then nobody studies environment in state lands. And then Fish and Game wants to come in and manage on federal lands when they haven't done any environmental studies themselves and the Park hasn't put a high priority on that. I think they're both at fault. According to the agreement, state and federal that related to ANILCA (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act) was, yeah, the state had responsibility for managing on federal and state lands that were not parks and special areas, and national forests. Yeah, all of these places. But that's where it breaks down is that it got politicized at the head. And then by now it's worse and "We'll take the feds to court because we're the state, we have a right to manage the wildlife in refuges." Well, they don't. They have the right to recommend and work out some kind of management agreement but they have to take into consideration the habitat, which the feds usually know more about on federal lands but frequently they don't know enough about. And they should have worked together before they went to -- Well, if you do that then the end result is you can't focus on wolf control. You have to focus on all these other factors, too, like winter snows, and over grazing, browsing by the moose, etc., etc., etc., which has happened too much on the Kenai particularly. And here as well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it sounds like it's good you went to that hearing then.

DAVID KLEIN: I felt good about it, yeah. But the problem with something like that is it takes me so long to put together what I want to say and then it's too much.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that's why you hand them the written.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, but I should be able to boil this thing down to the central points and then -- even for the written.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, but I mean three minutes is not a lot of time to talk about something that has to deal with all the different angles.

DAVID KLEIN: They had to shut me off at the end with putting up this arrow. And I was one more point and that one point was on bear baiting. But there was so many -- the rest of them -- I figured, well no, these two things I wanted to get in there, that would help, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, and that's what I mean.

DAVID KLEIN: I got that done. And it was understood that I had more and I handed in the written ones where they did that. But I wanted to do these in a way that showed some understanding of ecosystems and ecology. And you can't do that in three minutes.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, not at all. Well, I think that's a good summation to end for tonight, do you think?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. Yeah. I think the Boy Scout thing was important and it's going to be important to -- My son is an Eagle Scout, you know. And I didn't -- I didn't want to discourage him in scouting, but my wife was disappointed that I didn't become active as a scout leader myself. And here's your chance to be your dad and son. And it was hard to explain this to her because, yeah, religion was part of it. The Boy Scouts push the religion, too. And the whole Boy Scout oath said something, "In God we trust" or something like that. And I was having problems at that age, and why did that have to be in there? And it was too oriented even in the town -- the larger town where I went to high school where the troops were based. The Catholics had their Boy Scout deal in their church. And the church that ours was a congregational one and this close by was the Cub Scout den mother, she was -- lived in -- her husband was a Methodist preacher. And she was a terrific den mother. And her son, older son, was one of our teens that helped.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the troops were segregated by religious affiliation?

DAVID KLEIN: No, you've got to say these are host churches that had a place to meet. You'd use their basement.

KAREN BREWSTER: I realize that. I know. But were the members of those troops also members of those churches?

DAVID KLEIN: No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it was therefore unofficially segregated.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, yeah. I think, and I don't about the --

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause you went to the one -- Well, that was your mom's church, so you went to the one that was the Congregationalist.

DAVID KLEIN: No, I know they weren't officially segregated.

KAREN BREWSTER: I know, but they did sort of, because the churches hosted them --

DAVID KLEIN: But not the church where my troop was, it was --

KAREN BREWSTER: No, but when you were growing up?

DAVID KLEIN: No, that's the one I'm talking about.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, but that's what I'm wondering is if the church -- If there was one at the Methodist, one at the Congregations, one at the Catholic, were the members, the boys -- were of those different -- If you were a Catholic boy, you didn't go join the Boy Scout troop that met at the Methodist church, did you?

DAVID KLEIN: They might have been if they were in that part of the town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, it was based on -- ?

DAVID KLEIN: I think it was based on what part of town you're in. But I think -- I know that the Catholic there in the -- I don't know for sure, but I think -- of my buddies there were three of us that were active. Of five of us, yeah, the one whose mom was a Cub Scout (den mother), he wasn't in Boy Scouts, I don't think. But then another close friend, he lived sort of in between and he went to the closest one to his place. And yet, yeah, and he was in a different troop than his older brother. His older brother had been in my troop.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see.

DAVID KLEIN: And he was -- he became assistant unit leader or scout master. And he was just a terrific guy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was going to say, in all cases, the Jews weren't allowed at all.

DAVID KLEIN: I don't know. If they identified themselves.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's the reputation of the Boy Scouts. I don't know that there's fact behind that.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, there wasn't -- In my family, there wasn't any discrimination.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, but, as I say, the reputation of the Boy Scouts is there was a bit -- they were discriminatory. And so Jews weren't allowed, blacks weren't allowed in the same way.

DAVID KLEIN: I don't know about the Boy Scout manual. I don't --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh no, I'm not saying it's necessarily was officially stated.

DAVID KLEIN: No, but it --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's the stereotype reputation.

DAVID KLEIN: Well, certainly the role of God, “In God we trust” and other things for God and stuff, but I don’t think that -- I think, in fact, that Boy Scouts isn’t as popular in Catholic community as they were in Protestant community. That’s my guess. Although there was a troop for the Catholic Church and one of our buddies that played basketball with us, he belonged for a short time but he didn’t -- he was so busy doing other things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But, so even though you had kind of decided that you weren’t such a fan of Boy Scouts, you still encouraged your son to do it? Or you didn’t discourage it?

DAVID KLEIN: I didn’t discourage him, definitely.

KAREN BREWSTER: And why did you -- You must have seen some benefit of it to him.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. But I made a decision, and I didn’t make that decision when I was -- at a younger age, I didn’t make that decision. And I thought that’s the way I felt with my own kids. And like my oldest daughter was -- because of my wife’s involvement in -- Well, she grew up Baptist, but she went to the University Presbyterian Church. And she became a little more liberal, but not a hell of a lot. And she, you know, had a strong faith. So the three kids went to Sunday school. And I occasionally went to church when, you know, it was Easter or something like that. Plus my wife was in the choir and singing choir, and so I’d go there, yeah. And she wanted me to go and she wanted me go, too, because she was proud of the choir and --

KAREN BREWSTER: You were being supportive.

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah. I was supportive of that. And, but she made a lot of assumptions that -- because whenever we’d get into the religion thing when the kids -- before the kids were big enough to be involved in it, you know, then she would start -- We’d come through why we were different and then she’d -- I’d make my case and it was like, yeah, but you’ve had all this education and she can’t argue her position. Well, you can’t argue faith.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

DAVID KLEIN: And she knew that, but on the other hand -- It was frustrating for her and I can understand that. And all I could say is that I feel super tolerant toward faiths and people’s -- it’s the people that have the faith and that’s fine. And more recently, I -- if someone asks me if I believe and want to discuss it -- if they believe in God, and, yeah, I believe God is a valid concept that exists in the minds of humans and it certainly is, as such, it influences society in a great way. So in a sense, yeah, that kind of God with a capital ‘G’ is a product of our cultural evolution. And it’s no different from the first people that had something they called something other than God, but they expected -- it provided the answers or explanations for what they couldn’t explain themselves.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And I was asking about the Boy Scouts for your son that did you feel like you wanted him to have those same experiences in nature and learning about survival and those things? You felt like that benefited your life and you wanted him to experience that, also?

DAVID KLEIN: Yeah, but I didn't -- if I became a -- which I very easily could have done, became a troop leader or assistant leader or something like that, then what do you do if there's a prayer when you start? What do you do in that case? Do you involve yourself in the prayer or just you close your eyes, or -- In a church, I mean, I just can't bring myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But in Boy Scouts, I didn't realize, that you'd have to say those. I mean, if you're a troop leader who doesn't believe in the religious aspects of it, could you just not do that part?

DAVID KLEIN: It probably varies with troops. I mean, that's one of the positive things that these troops were pretty independent. It was only when you get an issue like somebody in the south where blacks might want to, or a female wants to join the Boy Scouts then it creates problems. Or a gay person. We had one gay guy in our troop and I knew him pretty well and it was generally known that he was gay and people used derogatory terms. And he was a nice guy, but you had to -- when you interacted with him you had to understand that he was pretty immature for a gay person in terms of his age. But he was very sociable. And he was also in the church young people deal. And they -- there was no discrimination against him. And probably not all of them knew he was gay.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, they probably didn't know.

DAVID KLEIN: But some did --

KAREN BREWSTER: But you think your son benefited, like you did, from the Boy Scouts in terms of appreciation for the outdoors and having those skills?

DAVID KLEIN: Oh definitely, yeah. Because, you know, we did a lot of camping as a family. And did sometimes canoe deals with some of the kids if Arlayne was doing something else or with one and I'd do it with the other kids. So we were big on that. And then building the cabin out at the lake (Quartz Lake), I mean, it was a family operation and they all loved it. And the disappointing thing once when Martin got into the Boy Scouts, then the weekends they'd be out to the Scout camp and so it was just the two girls. And he loved being out there with the family and the girls and the dog. And he was good at cutting logs and stuff and he and I worked together sometimes doing that. But the pull for him as a young boy was he has all these friends in scout thing and they had regular weekend outings. And so, yeah, he would go there and we'd go out to the lake and sometimes then he would be there. But sure that -- that's as families grow up that happens, and especially male versus female.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the girls didn't join Girl Scouts?

DAVID KLEIN: No, no, they didn't. But they were pretty busy. They belonged to a swim club before they had swimming in schools. And they both, girls, got to be really good swimmers. And then when they went to high school, West Valley, yeah, when the oldest one -- both of them went to West Valley but Martin went to Lathrop because --

KAREN BREWSTER: West Valley wasn't built yet?

DAVID KLEIN: So, but they -- Peggy went the first year of high school at -- plus we were in Norway for a year then. And then Laura, she stayed with the swim team and was a good swimmer and earned her letter and what. And Peggy was probably a better swimmer, starting, but she had had enough of the regimentation of being a regular for the training and all that. She appreciated it and she appreciated that she had learned to be a good swimmer. Went out to the lake, I mean.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I mean, all that time at the lake, I'm sure they all were good.

DAVID KLEIN: And you know, she --the last time the family was together out there with -- their mom still has that old cabin, the cabin that I built with them. And then I had the other cabin that I have now. And so when we're together then we could split up where people are sleeping and that time the guys were all in -- boys were in my cabin. And I do the big outdoor barbeque for everybody, and then I have to shuttle people around to get them across the lake. And then breakfast, Arlayne would do and make pancakes and blueberry syrup and all that. Blueberry pancakes and syrup and what.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nice.

DAVID KLEIN: And so that -- It works out well but the girls, especially Peggy was -- she loved -- She's very artistic and she'd collect plants and weave little hanging deals and even so many of them, she'd hang one in the outhouse and things like that. And Laura, the both of them, being out there and swimming was a big deal. But the last time they were up and when we had all this, we've got grandkids and everything. Peggy and Rich, she keeps swimming down there in Homer and it was exercise.