

Creating Alaska Oral History Interview

George and Jean Rogers

Conducted by Dr. Terrence Cole, UAF Office of Public History

Ter: Bunch of people to be on an Advisory Board for thinking of what should be recognized after 50 years of the constitution and statehood and because - so he thinks - sees as an important mission of the university, the practical aspect of the university, helping, so this - that's just for November to - and was an ad for people to think about the anniversary of the two things. That's the idea and to maybe have more sane discussion the whole idea of this about.

Robert: The fact that you know how political pundits and the sorry numbers that come back about the number of people that go to the polls. And when I hear you talk and I hear your interest in people running for civic office, it suggests that at the period Terrence is saying it's really an artifact of the 50's. Is there a sense - was there a sense at that point that you were engaged in an enterprise.

Everyone talking.

Man: Very definitely.

Man: We ready to go boys?

Man: And we sort of lost that somewhere along the line.

Ter: So it was that moral the idealistic part of it.

Man: Yeah, it was just the convention and the first maybe five years of the legislature they were acting like statesmen, both and (inaudible) about the money. They sort of fell apart at that point when we got the big money; just everything went to hell.

Ter: So let's just say that again George and look over towards me and then you won't be on the camera, but that's okay. So you'd say how did it change with the - for the first five years?

George: I said roughly. The big change came when we got the big money from the oil - Prudhoe Bay and it just all of a sudden things started changing. We lost our idealism. We lost the idea that we were working together, conservatives, liberals, everybody, creating a beautiful state and it became money grubbing on the natural element. You had the greed taking over in the 1990's. You saw what happened to accounting. That sacred thing that I started with is no longer sacred. They know how to cook the books and that sort of thing was coming in. There were things like that that came in.

Ter: Now it's called triple entry bookkeeping.

George: Yes. That's the sort of thing that really was life of paradise was lost sort of feeling I have.

Ter: Because it was a very idealistic -

George: It was a very idealistic thing, it was. I state in the convention that spirit of convention carried over for the first roughly five years in the legislative action.

Ter: Did you think it was important that the convention was held in Fairbanks versus Juneau, did that -

George: Yes, yes because I felt we referred to Fairbanks as the heart remember, the heart of Alaska and that was sort of a symbolic thing was in the center of the land mass. And I think Juneau is ideal for the capitol because the capitol should be a place like in Australia they put it in Cambera in sheep country and in Brazil they put it in the middle of the jungles some place to get it away from the big centers so they could look at the whole thing. But this was just a capitol move.

Ter: But that's a good reason for the point George because in a way doesn't the achievement of statehood definitely can see how the oil money soured some people - I mean changed the dynamic, but didn't the capitol move also do that. The constant proposals to move -

George: Yes. This was one - I credit Bob Atwood for this because he said what do we do now to get - right after the convention; the statement there was sort of a slump. The military was withdrawing. The cold war hadn't started yet. When the cold war started, everything started churning again. And there was like we are losing and Atwood let's get the state off dead center. Let's move the capitol into the Anchorage area where we can really work. And that started but that introduced sectionalism which was a very - that was a very negative thing. And fortunately there were enough people in Anchorage who voted against the move that - we couldn't have done it by ourselves. We didn't have friends in Anchorage an area there. But it was constantly being brought up and you had this constant thing are we going to last another few years. And Jean and I just said we're just going to ride it out. We don't think this is going to happen. It may happen. It's being done on a piecemeal basis now of course, but it is a little bit different.

Ter: It doesn't have quite the tenor of Bob Atwood's taking the largest newspaper does it?

George: No, it doesn't.

Ter: And hammering it day after day. But anyway that encouraged me that that's one issue that was so - that the sectionalism which had always been there was somewhat subdued for the convention.

George: Yes, it was.

Ter: Partly by what you said I think about the apportionment, wasn't it, that that was so important. So did you work on the apportionment that's the apportionment article for the elections, is that - did you help?

George: I did work on that too, yes. Then I've been on two when they - I was court appointed - what do they call those - trustee to when they - to re-examine the portion that came up politically biased portions. One was Democrat and one was Republican. So I was impartial.

Ter: Did you have you know sort of that, the idea of having it in Fairbanks and on the University campus. Did that sort of help with the tone?

George: Yes it did too because the University was just beginning to feel its growth going there. When I first saw the University it looked like a Siberian penal institution. We had these wooden structures with a water tower which had a (inaudible) was tape playing up on top there and just reminded me of pictures I've seen in Siberian of these buildings. And this was this territorial days so they couldn't go into debt.

The main administration building was a concrete garage - basement with a wooden building on top, which then when they got some money they moved it over to the side and put the superstructure on, just like Alaska building their own home. You couldn't go into debt. So it was a - and that was such an interesting thing to see that suddenly we can get some money after statehood. I also worked for Alaska Public Works as their financial advisor. That was one that gave all these things - that had a sunset provision then - the Feds poured money into the infrastructure and construction. The University got a big chunk of that and the campus suddenly became a campus, overnight almost. It was an interesting thing to see.

The idea of a University in Alaska was one that appealed to me. Sure you could as one of the (inaudible) you could afford to give an area kid scholarship to any University of his choice and it wouldn't cost as much as having a University and somehow we needed the University. I still believe that.

Ter: (Inaudible).

Man: Just hearing something.

Ter: Car - what I was going to say you know President Bunnell always said he didn't paint the buildings because he wanted the legislature to know that he wasn't wasting their money, but I mean did you see the University - you must have seen it before Bunnell was still there I guess.

George: '45 I came up there - came into the main building and I was looking around for - and there was an old man with a push broom pushing and he had overalls on and I said I'm trying to find Dr. Bunnell and he said well he said you go down to the end of the hall there and turn left and that's his office. So I went down the hall and turned left and here

was this janitor sitting behind the desk. I was flabbergasted he said, well he said I'm trying to save money by doing the janitor work you know. But it was that sort of operation.

Ter: It was him with the push broom?

George: Yes, yes, he was doing this but it was incredible. He was a wonderful character and he was no fool either, but he played up that role of being the guy who was not beneath him to take a broom and looks like hell out there. Somebody should clean it up I'll do that.

Ter: Perfect way of shaming the people who worked for him?

George: It sure is, yeah.

Ter: Because I think that I was did you run into Terrace Moore at all.

George: Oh yes, yes. He was quite different. He was very flamboyant. And he was the one he flew an airplane and he liked to play that up. He was just - his picture on the things looking like (inaudible) bird his head up like this looking to the skies and Bunnell was dressed up with furs looking well a coy. Looking like a banker.

Ter: Who was the banker?

George: Wood.

Ter: Oh Wood, right. Well did you - you didn't ever live in Fairbanks though did you?

George: Yeah.

Ter: When you were running the institute?

George: Yeah, I was up there. We were there for a year.

Ter: Okay.

George: We came up and we had two - three kids then, four kids.

Ter: Well you're not far off George only by a factor of what four.

George: That was an interesting experience too, but it was the University in transition. We just got Wickersham Hall that was built for the girls and then we had Chena Ridge was where the students would go and dig a hole in the hill and put a sod roof on it and they'd come in and use the gymnasium to take their showers and do their laundry and it was - but there was a sense of people trying to get an education there in that sort of rough situation, which I liked very much.

Ter: Did you have any contact with Patty, you know?

George: Oh yes, yes.

Ter: During the convention and stuff?

George: Yeah, he was - he was a nice guy. He was - he had a very simple operation. He had the chancellor and he had two deans, Dean of Men and Dean of Women. He said we don't need any other deans. When Wood came in, he had a half a dozen deans. Everybody in effect had - figured they had a chance to become a dean. So it sort of just completely disorganized the whole faculties.

Ter: George, how come you never became a dean?

George: I wasn't interested.

Ter: You had more sense.

George: Yes, that's right, but I wanted to do is pursue doing this research, trying to figure out what was going on and I did work for the Forest Service but in the process I really realized that the Forest Service is not going to survive without a subsidiary. Originally the industry theory of subsidiary this had to be replenished and the Feds weren't willing to go along with (inaudible), so that's the end of it. It had nothing to do with conservationists or anybody else. It was viable without a great heavy subsidiary, which they did get.

Ter: You mean now the Ketchikan and Pulp?

George: Yes.

Ter: The operatives?

George: The two operatives, yes.

Ter: Because it is something in 1960, it really wasn't oil that on the horizon. I mean pulp seemed to be the main thing.

George: Yeah, it was.

Ter: That one could envision, right, is that fair enough?

George: That's right, yeah. And I always in making my projections the future always had to level off, most other into line continue to go up. I said no, it's going to stop right there. And it's not because of concern about preserving the pristine wilderness because it is not viable without a continuing subsidiary and the Feds aren't going to go on subsidizing this forever. The reason the Sitka mill came in is because we also decided to help Japan re-

establish their basic industries too in exchange for being a bulwark against communism. Those sort of tradeoffs. The global politics took over on that too.

Ter: You know one aspect I like always in the future of Alaska you said maybe you might want to say this that the concept of resources is not ecstatic one and a resource actually expands or do you remember?

George: Yeah.

Ter: How you articulated that, I forget it?

George: Well I think as a resource it doesn't have a value until there is demand for it. So it's a function of demand. It's like when I was trying to put together the Mental Health Trust. I said we had to get a value for sand and gravel. So the Department of Natural Resources had people going through the (inaudible). No that's not the way you approach that. We have sand and gravel any place, what you look for is what the demand for it is going to be. This is what - I couldn't get that through their thick skulls that you don't spend staff time trying to evaluate the - cause I said it's there. It's everywhere. If you're going to build a highway in Alaska, you just find a place you can start digging your gravel. You don't have to go searching for it, but if you'd not building a highway it doesn't have any value. And I could never get that across.

Man: Can you guys stop one second?

Ter: Uh-huh.

George: Highway adds value.

Ter: Right, right. Okay. Let's see. Anything else we should cover here for?

Robert: I can't think of anything. Did you have something, Tim?

Tim: Not in particular. You know we were talking about this November little thing we're working on and I just want to make sure everyone that we're with if there is anything that we can think of to have them bring up particularly on the you know.

Robert: Actually we talked - didn't Mark and (inaudible), we got most of it.

Tim: And I noted those two. Do you think we got everything that we would need to like kind of stand-alone?

Ter: I did. I can't think of anything else on this that you work on with the field committee.

George: Well the field committee was the Interior Department is sort of a big gigantic miscellaneous file. You put everything in there. You put Indians in there. You put power in there. You put natural resources - recreational resources, the whole mess. And

(inaudible) idea was that it didn't make much sense. And I think I was talking to you about this, he felt he was like a feudal king with all these powerful lords around him. The only way he could figure out of breaking this down was to reorganize the Interior Department on the bases (telephone ringing).

Man: You're rolling. We're ready to go. I'm rolling, Aaron are you ready?

Ter: So George, we were talking about the Federal Field Committee and -

George: Oh, yes.

Ter: And Pat Krug -

George: Well, the Federal Field Committee was an attempt on his part and the successors to have some control. It was secretary - it was have some control. The idea was to break the continental United States and Alaska and Hawaii into regional units, which were defined as combinations of river basins cause he thought in those terms. And then have each of these have a field committee made up of the various divisions of the Interior Department that operated in that region and then the chairman of that committee would be his representative in that region. So I was a direct representative of - in Alaska from that point.

And we would do the day-to-day managing of things. In other words working out conflicts between the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey, competing on many things and on road building and things of that sort there. Try to resolve those conflicts at the regional level. Also the first cut of the budget was to be done on that basis. So you could work out again being aware of what everybody else was doing. New York particular especially fitted into the whole. It was a very, very rational and very, very I thought brilliant idea. Naturally I went because I was the chairman.

Ter: Now did that - was this after you got your Ph.D. or what was the time?

George: This was after the (inaudible).

Ter: So it was the early - it's the last couple of years of Gruening's tenure?

George: Actually it had nothing to do with Gruening. In fact, Gruening went ahead and had George Sunbrook (?) (inaudible).

Ter: But it was before Eisenhower?

George: Yeah, just before Eisenhower. I was the chairman about two years when Eisenhower was elected and of course because I was before I was protected by Civil Service but in this position I wasn't. I figured I was ready to receive my Riff notice and I was called back to Washington, but I told you this story earlier.

Frank Hindlesman (?), is already there being debriefed and when he heard about this he said I want to transfer George Rogers from that position to my staff and they did it. He said when I came back they haven't set up their political (inaudible) yet and I wanted to act because we need people like you in Alaska, that was his - naturally I loved the man.

Ter: Well I mean it's a huge compliment.

George: Yeah.

Ter: I mean cause the deal because Gruening obviously was a propagandist and that's what we really wanted you know.

George: Gruening looked upon the field committee not as a device for rationalizing the operation of the Interior Department, but the means of promoting Alaska. That's why he wanted George Sumbrook (?) to be the chairman. Ken Kanoo was the chairman before me but they had to get rid of him because what he was doing he thought - he used his position as access to privileged information to feed to developers.

Man: Yeah, you know.

George: Not character. However, he did give me a lot of support on the Mental Health Program.

Ter: Well isn't that something that they really screwed up.

George: Oh, Jesus,

Ter: Here the Governor gives you a million acres of land and then you say oh it doesn't mean anything.

George: Yeah.

Ter: You had it in trust. So again that's more of my argument. Why would anyone want to trust these ding dongs in Alaska with their own state? It's unbelievable you know.

Man: The reason these ding dongs came along a little later.

Ter: No, I know they did, but I mean if that's the type of Alaskan mentality, oh let's just dissolve this whole thing.

George: When I was looking at the (inaudible) correspondence there.

Robert: Are we rolling?

Man: We're rolling.

George: Well, lets not talk - I get pretty emotional about that because it just about killed me.

Ter: Yeah.

Robert: It was so near to solution.

Ter: We were talking though George about the field committee and did you go back to DC for that too?

George: Yes, I went back and of course not this is terrible I can't think of the Secretary's name.

Ter: It's not Oscar Chapman though you don't think so?

George: No, no, it was -

Ter: Who did he follow?

George: I hate this.

Ter: There was Chapman.

George: I can't even think where I can lay my hands on something that would bring this up.

Ter: Chapman. Of course it's not Seeton. Is it the guy that followed Chapman?

George: It may have been, yes.

Man: I can almost think of it.

George: Well anyway.

Ter: Stop for a second here, look and see if I can.

Lady: (Inaudible) was based here.

Ter: Oh, I see. So you didn't actually happen to live in Washington?

Lady: No, no.

Ter: Oh, good, okay.

George: Doesn't give any names here.

Ter: That's an opportunity. Let's talk about this though George the - we'll figure out who the Secretary of Interior was at the time. I don't who followed Chapman.

George: Darn it.

Ter: Once you did this though your - so you stayed here (inaudible), I'm glad she explained it because I didn't understand that and cause essentially the Secretary of Interior, you know, like they used to say was the Tzar of Alaska, you know.

George: Yeah.

Ter: Interior is really the biggest thing, so what kind of challenges did that pose I mean giving up the power I mean you know figuring out getting all these people together in the same room.

George: First of all you had to get the people together to agree to come together and like I said we had trouble. The general manager of the Alaska Railroad refused to come. He had good reason because he was not playing the game square, but they got rid of him. Ken Kano had been there before me. He was the first appointee. When I went back to Washington I said I cannot find any files he said. Pretend like the field committee didn't exist before you came on, this is Chapman. It was Chapman. He said this - you are the first field committee chairman. Ken never acted on anything (inaudible committee chairman).

When I came back from Harvard, Ken - we were at a coffee (inaudible) backed me up. Ken was a great - he was big man. Backed me up against (inaudible) he says George I want you to be my assistant. He said I'm in charge of all the development in Alaska, that's not the mission of the field committee. And he said I'm very good at (inaudible) up projects but I want somebody to be there to pick up the pieces after I go so I can go make more development and I want you to manage the development that are provided. I said well I got this job with Alaska Public Works. Forget about that. I said I have a commitment to them.

Well, I finally disentangled myself from me, but he was that way. He practically - he always spoke right in your face with a cigar in his hand and a cigar breath. And I just didn't want to be associated with him. Well then when he disappeared, it was like the same time that Johnson disappeared. They had been working together on this cement plant, which was to be kept secret because the Interior Department was going to provide a cement plant. The limestone was up at the peak of the railroad where you could run supplies down hill both ways and gave the railroad a back haul and things like this. But somebody leaked out what the plans were so some developers from Anchorage came up and filed mining claims on these deposits, which killed the whole project.

But I think that was (inaudible), but anyway so I started from scratch again. There were no reports. There was supposed to be quarterly reports made and there was the annual report, which was - so I had to do the first thing and I knew what I was supposed to do. It was to be representing the Secretary. I was not to go around seeking out development. Of course Gruening also looked upon them as a developer or means of creating development. I said that's something somebody else has to do. My job was to assist the Interior Department in managing. And so I concentrated on developing a friendship with

all the members and we had a lot of fun too. They all got to be on very good friendly terms with each other and I really enjoyed that job.

So it was interesting when Chapman was back there. He says George you're a young man. Just beware of Drake. He said when I go to one of these meetings or these things I always get a tumbler full of ginger ale and I nurse it along (inaudible) whiskey but it isn't. He recommended and I followed his advice because it is true there is a lot of drinking going on in these meetings where it is kind of unnerving because you begin to lose your judgment.

It was so funny he just - he felt he was going to save me from this thing, which I accepted that as good advice. But the whole thing was done almost like a family. It was - they all told me that they looked forward to their meetings. When Kato was there he said a quality - he would tell them what was going to happen, then adjourn the meeting. There was never any discussion, but. So I was the first one that was operating as a real committee member. As Jean said we did quite a bit of entertainment. When they were in town Jean we had dinner parties and we had cocktail parties here too and discussed things informally after the meetings.

That was very important to have these informal meetings off the record. And it was going along great and of course when Eisenhower came in the field committee was continued for a year or so after but it was crippled and abandoned because there were people with special interests who didn't like the idea. They wanted to control it from Washington.

So it was a nice interlude. It was a think that I look back on with a lot of fondness because I felt like I was doing something really important. I guess I was, but it didn't last.

Ter: Did the field committee, but from there you went to Governor Hinzelman's.

George: Hinzelman saved me because I was being ripped and he just grabbed me and picked me up and put on and said - he got a lot of bad criticism for this because the fact that D'Armand(?) was opposed to this, even though he was a friend, we shouldn't have any Democrats in this critical position here. But Frank said he knew that I would do what I was supposed to do and I tried to, but it was - as soon as I got this opportunity then he was relieved but he was going to stand by me and he did and that wasn't easy.

Ter: What was D'Armand's role? Clase told me once that D'Armand, working for Hinzelman was kind of like the I don't know Chief of Staff plus hatchet man, you member that. He was really the guy fighting off the Democrats.

George: Yeah, he was and that's what made his job awkward, because here I was a very liberal Democrat sitting in this desk right next to the Governor. Only thing Hinzelman didn't like about me is that my desk was always messy. That's because I was doing work. His desk was always clean.

Man: I'm sorry, but this next little noise thing coming.

George: I guess a teenager I've always lived either in a barracks or in a hotel room. He didn't know how it would be to live in that house. And so what he did he hired some of the staff from the Baranoff Hotel where he lived to be his houseboy, his cook, and so on. So he brought the hotel with him into the Governor's Mansion.

Jean: That's amazing.

Ter: Because he was a bachelor, right?

George: (Inaudible) a real confirmed bachelor.

Ter: Yeah and his - did he leave because was it ill health or what you know I don't know if you stayed that long.

George: Yeah.

Ter: Cause Stepovich came after.

George: Stepovich came after him and I was trying to think of what was the transition there. I did some work with Stepovich but Stepovich was his own man. He didn't pay any attention to the party lines at all. And they were an interesting family.

Ter: Really, Mike Stepovich?

George: Yes.

Ter: He was one of your Vitchs of Fairbanks, yeah.

George: One of the Vitchs yes.

Ter: Yeah.

George: His father -

Ter: And now there are sons of Vitchs, yeah.

George: Yeah they were good people. His wife was a wonderful person. How many kids did they have Jean?

Jean: Nine.

George: They are nine kids. They were good Catholics.

Ter: Did - what was the work that you did for him? Actually that was just consulting or you -

George: Yeah I did consulting work for him on we needed some demographic studies made. They were pretty much word involved politics but information that he needed for certain things that he was doing.

His wife said when he - he was one of these lawyers she said that he ruined his suits all the time because he would stand on the street and talk and he ripped all the pockets of his coats he was leaning on a parking meter and he walked away with the pocket draped over the meter and ripped - but he was a real interesting guy. And they were a very good-looking couple too. The kids are all good looking.

Man: Do a reel change.

George: Guarantee you'd be on the varsity next year but I said - I was sitting in the Jacuzzi with a periodic table couldn't memorize. I said I've got other agendas I have to tend to.

Ter: Yeah, no kidding

Man: You know every time we change reels we have to set the cameras back up and it takes about 30 or 40 seconds, so I'd say soon though.

George: That's not what I went to college for Jean.

Jean: He also took Art. George is an artist doing.

Man: Really George, is that right?

Ter: Painting or cartoons or what?

George: Mostly - well some of my sketchbooks would survived well George Sidney got them and had copies made. They were burned in smoke but I did a lot of sketching. Also because I wanted to be an architect. When we went to Europe I did drawings of -

Jean: (Inaudible) Alaska. Line drawing.

Ter: Wow.

Jean: He's very good.

Ter: Because as a child you wanted to be an architect?

George: Yeah, right, yeah. And I did parts of the Grand Tour later in life when we went and other things.

Ter: See what you could have become?

George: Yeah.

Jean: He sings too.

Man: You do.

Man: Not the Renaissance Guy.

Man: So are we rolling now?

Man: Yes we are.

George: Probably tearing these things up again.

Ter: Does it sound okay?

Man: It's fine. Yeah, I think it's all right. It's fine. I'll let you know.

Ter: Oh, yes, just anything else about the D'Armand. I don't know if you had much dealings with D'Armand then?

Jean: (Inaudible) couple of times and we didn't do it.

Man: Let's stop for a minute.

Man: Aaron tell us when you're going.

Man: Talking about. What were we doing?

George: Short-term memory.

Ter: Mine too. I have no idea.

George: Maybe we better let Jean talk.

Jean: Talking about the field committee.

Man: D'Armand.

Ter: Oh, D'Armand and Hinzelman's. George, maybe you can give me some advice what should I ask Bob about, because I know they can go way back, right.

George: Yeah, they do, yes.

Ter: And I don't know if Bob knew them from being in the fish business or what.

George: I don't know. In fact I don't know the ins and outs about why he selected Bob cause you see he was down the hall from me and we didn't - but afterwards we were very good terms afterward. It was just an awkward thing to have me sitting there and I knew that so I got out as quickly as I could. Well it took a while, a couple of years.

Ter: Where did you go after that?

George: That's when I got the Ford Foundation grant resources for the future. I keep saying Ford Foundation, it was just (inaudible). And that was to be like a three-year grant and I turned out two books. I didn't get the third one done, but I did when I did that circumpolar north with two other - Terrance Armstrong and Graham Raleigh. That one was one that took the place of the third one where I put Alaska into a global context and looked at it. And so we did accomplish the three books with interruption.

Ter: Well that's what I said, I think that (inaudible) of statehood that's a book that everybody in Alaska should know. The difficulty is like I said it is so grounded in that time and some elements. I mean I don't know I know some elements you may be able to expound on them use another way, but I just think that it is so interesting there about the questions about it. Because now because the state has been so eked financially successful in a way.

George: Yes.

Ter: We have these fiscal problems but we're still so incredibly rich that people don't understand that that's you know. I don't know I just think we have the victory disease you know, what they call World War II you know. I mean that's what we have.

George: Yes, it is and it all started falling apart when we achieved this, like I say financial independence with the oil and then we didn't know how to handle it, which was a tragedy.

Ter: And but it's also I guess the opportunity isn't it. I mean we have still opportunity where we can go I suppose. Let me just one last question. Okay. I know I said that before. How you know sort of looking back is there any sort of one time that the (inaudible) happier for you personally, professionally, as a family you know than any other times. Something that you really enjoyed that.

George: Well the first years were as a whole very happy because we were making progress. Things were changing. Field Committee was a high point. When I lost that I did get a grant so I could go on writing about it and then with statehood I said before there was this period in which the legislature, the political scene was not as ugly and vicious as it has become. And that was a downer. I don't think we survived - I say the real downer to me was the (inaudible) of the Mental Health Trust lands and it was - I just felt I was betrayed. I was - a lot of things happened to me and I just was very unpleasant.

Ter: Well maybe you should say something about that just for the record, because this is for the future you know so speak up. Because basically there was a million acres and the

state was supposed to hold it in trust - the territory right, because it was given to the territory first, right?

George: Yes it was and it was the hold point of it was to get the federal government out of the Mental Health business and up to that point what we did we simply warehoused people who were difficult and had problems. We didn't differentiate between alcoholism and mental health. There was no concept of what really mental health really meant and we just sent them south to Morningside. There was a saying in the Alaska outside, inside, Morningside, this was the story of coming to Alaska. And it was treated really very crudely. And the idea of the Mental Health Trust lands was to build a resource base on which the money could be used. The flaw in the drafting of it was that it was set up and they make a very (inaudible) as a trust, then they said the resources can be sold. And this gave some of the Department of Natural Resources a peg to say it was not a true trust. But today I've told you this thing about what they really intended if you read the record of the drafting of this they were looking at this as a transfer of the raw materials to cash which was then invested. But that was one of the things that we had trouble with.

The other was the defeating that the Secretary of Natural Resources director and the Attorney General both exchange correspondence on which I saw and they said well that's the Natural Resources people didn't know how to manage the Trust. Well let's just get rid of the Trust. The mentally ill don't know who they are anyhow so we'll take (inaudible) mental ill have families. And when they did this, then the families and friends of the mentally ill formed the Alaska - now I can't even think of the name -

Jean: (Inaudible)

George: (Inaudible) this is Juneau lives, (inaudible) Alaska lives. They sprung up all over the state and then we - then as organizations filed suit against the Department - the State for breaking the Trust. And it went all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ordered the Trust be established. And they set up and so I was the chairman of the committee that was supposed to do the re-establishment of it. Well I realized that more than 50 percent of the lands had been disposed of in various ways. It would be a lifetime of lawsuits, third parties, innocent third parties who had acquired land that had been sold.

So we came up with the idea of creating an alternative. And what we were going to do is set up the lands that had been selected by the State for parks and other things, whether they were Mental Health or not - Trust or not, until you got a million acres and say this is the new Trust. But then we would trace back the original land trust and see what its value was. This would be the basis for determining how much money that should be transferred from this.

And it was fine because - I thought it satisfied everybody. But then when it came to the point of putting a value on the lands, the Department of Natural Resources refused to use anything except comparable sales. So when you came to (inaudible) had selected mineral lands that were accessible around the highway net near already developed areas so that they could be developed easily. So they put zero value on those lands and I said why?

Because we can't find any comparable sale of mineral lands. I said of course not you don't sell mineral lands you lease them. I said in other words you would say that Prudhoe Bay had a zero balance and they said yes. I said you must be insane. What you do you would capitalize - they didn't know what I was saying the future earnings that you will get from the leasing of that land and that becomes the value of the land. I could never get it through their thick skulls.

What I did when I took over this job I realized I got all the textbooks that real estate agents study when they studying for their examinations and I read those books. I got a hold of the - if you had comparable sales you had the discounting from a present value to future earnings and a whole bunch of other things. So I had all this in hand and they refused to do anything but the comparable sales. And in the textbooks they said comparable sales should only be used where there is frequent turnover, like real estate in an urban area. Then you have these other alternative methods for things like mineral lands or lands where your resources are harvested.

Well the thing broke down on that. I couldn't get anybody to even our lawyers didn't understand what I was talking about. It was just a complete frustration. We did - then we had the other thing that they said we don't have any more money, but what they decided to do was to hire a professor from New Mexico who had written a textbook which I had recommended to them on the evaluation of mineral lands, but they didn't tell me they hired him. He called me up from Fairbanks and said I didn't realize George that I was getting into the middle of a lawsuit. They didn't tell me this. But I want to tell you that they wanted him to evaluate what we had done. We couldn't use their methods so we hired a professor from the London School of Economics to come over and do this for us, you look at other lands like the Rocky Mountain States and get a comparable value. But it was impossible for us - he was appalled when he found out what he had stepped into. He said he was criticizing our work on the grounds that we hadn't done the right approach. The reason we hadn't done it is because they wouldn't allow us to do the right approach.

But they then hired him to evaluate what had been done. And he said the information that the Department gave us was the wrong information. And that was - after I read that I said this is criminal. This is - by that time the legislature got tired of this. They went along with us up to the point where they set up the methodology, but when we tried to apply the methodology well we ended by this long - I finally resigned. Then this long negotiation and they came up with this board to manage these lands. The board members got salaries that are almost comparable to the head of the Department, but they don't do anything. So any money they might get from those Mental Health lands goes into the running of the management, which means that - the only thing we gained from this was a heightened public awareness of what Mental Health was about. But we did get appropriations, which we didn't get before. We did get some programs put in place, which we didn't have before, so it wasn't a total loss. But it was not what we expected. Not what the federal government expected us to do. Like I said I felt like I was really bushwhacked and a few others things. Lydia Selcreek (?) and I were - fought that battle almost a month.

Jean: And (inaudible).

George: Yeah, she was not on the - she was on something else.

Ter: And I think it is an example some day somebody will have to write about. It was the grossest example of a State mismanagement.

George: Yes.

Ter: Of this land and so that in itself going back on this presupposition without statehood.

George: Uh-huh.

Ter: They can't just dissolve a million acres and it's the least able members of society and do - say we don't have to care of them cause the Feds care for them. The whole idea was to get it off the federal dole that was the whole idea.

George: And it made sense because then you bring it closer to home where you can really manage this sort of thing, but I try to block that out of my mind because I wake up at night thinking about that and get very angry. I did manage to extract from the record for example I found the thing where they were cooking the minutes. I didn't bother with the minutes. So then I insisted -

But then I had to then - I put a box in the Eagan Library and they have turned that over the archives now. So I assume that is there, but they deliberating were trying to shred the record. So, but it was a long drawn out battle. It was a total losing battle.

Ter: Well I see it's an embarrassment to the State. It is the biggest mistake because of the fact of what you said. So at least you did your best (inaudible). I mean what a scramble eggs they made of this. As soon as they abolished the thing it probably an impossible situation to really fix frankly looking at it you know.

George: And that's the reason -

Ter: How do you go back and unscramble it?

George: The court order listed re (inaudible) the land trust. Well we couldn't do that. Cause third parties were involved in this, but like I say the Mental Health Program has advanced since then because of all the publicity.

Ter: And better than territorial days I would say so.

George: Oh, my God yes.

Ter: Better than Morningside?

George: Well this is the point I mentioned Bill Redding was a great help with this when he realized he got up and said I'm not going to have the State spending money for having people lie on couches being psychoanalyzed. So and I went and said Bill I said you don't understand mental illness. And one of our daughters went through and I described what we went through and he actually had tears in his eyes. He came to me and apologized and then he became a real champion of the programs. It was with his help and a few other people that we got not the mental health plans but mental health legislation through so I have to give Bill credit for that.

Ter: Well it's better. I mean that you know and it is more enlightened about some things. It is just that when you mix these Alaskans up with lands and resources.

George: Yeah.

Ter: Since that's the only capital we have look at the mess it made you know, so. Well, okay I don't have any more questions for George honestly, but actually I want to thank you for consenting to this. And I know it's a you know pretty grueling here so I really appreciate it.

George: It was good for me to review in my own mind what was going on here.

Ter: Well I want you to think about this cause I'll be glad to help you if you want to do that book. I can come down and do that.

George: Well I intend to do this and it will be a - I don't know where to start it. A few things like that but I want it to be line journeys through these things not just about me, but what happened around me and how things worked. And as (inaudible) said you don't have to worry about footnotes George, you're the primary source and anyone who would contradict you is probably dead now.

Ter: That's exactly right. Okay, thanks George.

George: Okay.

Man: Camera going and walking out door.

George and Judge Stewart

Setting up.

Ter: Okay, today is still September 22, 2003 and we are at Jean and George's house in beautiful sunny Juneau. So Jean tell us about George's secret life? You've heard all about it, the truth is what we want to know.

Jean: You know he and I - I have done of course we built our first house ourselves and we came back to Alaska with a book that George had that said How to Build Your Own

Home for \$3,000. And he can do anything he can read about, except plumbing. He said he wasn't going to do the plumbing. So we managed to pay for the plumber to come, but he did all the wiring and he did it right. And I was only allowed to hammer things where it didn't show because I was not very good with a hammer. Second under coatings but never anything on the surface that was going to show.

Ter: Did it work out to less than 3,000?

Jean: Well you might - in the end I suppose we had thousands of dollars in it but for long time we put all our fortune in it, as George made it.

Ter: Well tell me a little bit about when you and he met. Where were you from - born? You were born in Idaho, right?

Jean: Yes.

Ter: What part of Idaho?

Jean: Well down in the southern part, the Snake River plain side. I did my high school years in Twin Falls. Then I went to a teacher training college up in Mt. Harrison when Idaho was first a state and you know they had to give so much land to education. They built a teacher training college there thinking that Idaho would be a dry farming state, but that's too dry. So when irrigation came along everything went the other direction down by Twin Falls and in through there. So Albion was just left up there high and dry, this little school for teacher training. And I had my first two years there. And then I went to the largest university in the world after teaching two years and making a little money.

Ter: So at Berkeley, right?

Jean: And that's where I met George.

Ter: So what year did you go down to Berkeley, what year was that?

Jean: I guess I came in 1940, 41.

Ter: Was that your ten dollars - your ten-dollar deposit?

Jean: I sent my ten dollar application in and the first thing they had a get together you know the way they do to introduce everybody around and there were a lot of junior transfers to Berkeley. They encouraged that and when I met George I said isn't it fun for you to put the faces to those ten dollars you got? And he said yes.

George: I managed to say yes.

Ter: You did, yeah.

Jean: And of course the way he tells it he made up his mind to marry me early on but my - the girls at the girls house think I just chased him right down into a corner. You see he was a mutual thing, been kind of a mutual thing ever since.

Ter: And so your - what were you studying at Berkeley? What was your -

Jean: I was an English Major.

Ter: And so what year did you graduate - did you graduate down there?

Jean: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

Ter: What year was that?

Jean: 1943-½ I guess it was. I had to take an extra semester. I really should have gone ahead two years but in Berkeley they didn't let you take technical courses like teacher training until you were at least junior and of course I had all these thousands of education credits so I lost of them so I had to make it up. And I was already married to George by then and we were supporting each other. At one point I made more money than he did.

Ter: An English Major out-earning an economist, now that's a story. When you came - what was it like, the trip up to Alaska, first trip in 1945?

Jean: Well it was a wonderful adventure and we thought we were doing we were doing our war duty and actually got here and there was all sorts of things that we hadn't seen in Berkeley for a long time. Like steaks and eggs and whipped cream and even if it was Abescet.

Ter: Now why was that because the rationing wasn't here or what was?

Jean: Yes, they didn't - the rationing - they didn't do any rationing here.

Ter: And so what did you expect to stay for a little bit or?

Jean: Well we had signed on for two years, like all government employees do you know. And we found out that not only was it a (inaudible) town, although it was only about 6,000 people you know, but it had a flavor to it and besides as you know George found this to be an ideal spot to do this research was wanting to do. So it was just a terrific happenstance. We thought we were just really fortunate. And Mildred Herman took right a hold of me and said now just because you're going to be housewife and a mother doesn't mean that you can't do public duties and volunteer your time and so on and so I've been doing that ever since.

Ter: Did she kind of show you around and stuff because she was the one that George was working too right, yeah?

Jean: Yes. Uh-huh. And well I guess we stayed with her, didn't we George?

George: Yes, at the beginning.

Jean: For the first three or four days while we were looking for a house you know. Until very recently housing was always scarce in Juneau. I can remember quite well a few years ago when I saw the first sign that I have ever seen in Juneau, Apartment for Rent.

Ter: Man, that's something, that's awful.

Jean: And we - it was all because of this thing of not getting any money you know to rent out the place.

Ter: Sure and it being so constricted.

Jean: Well it isn't actually constricted. People have that people about it and some people don't like it because the mountains are so close and they feel constricted, but it's really we've got endless space to build and do things. Good Lord they're even talking about making a golf course and some extension you know. Fancy that?

Ter: No, I can't. So the - what kind of things were you involved in Jean. What kind of things?

Jean: Oh the library grabbed me right off to do storytelling and I've been volunteering in libraries ever since.

Ter: Was that Gail, was she librarian then?

Jean: Oh gosh no, it was wonderful old lady named Nan Coleman. Gail came along a lot later. The next one was Edna Lohman and that was strictly a political appointment and she didn't know anything about libraries. In fact I didn't find out until quite some time later and I helped her a lot. I didn't have any children then.

I went to the legislature all the time too because it was interesting. It is not interesting any more. But you know everything used to happen on the floor. We were there the famous time that Elizabeth Brodavich made her speech because she actually happened to be a friend of ours too. We took care of their kids once while she and her husband went on a trip.

Ter: Was that - why don't you describe the speech? Did you know she was going to give it that day? That was about the Civil Rights Bill in 1945.

Jean: Well we knew she was going to make a plea.

Ter: And so you were in the audience that day?

Jean: Yes.

Ter: Oh wow. Yeah. What were some of the most of the most interesting legislators then or was there anybody who comes to mind. I don't know if there is anybody.

Jean: Oh there were lots of them. They were all kind of - was it Jones from Nome.

Ter: Charlie Jones.

George: Charlie Jones.

Ter: Yeah.

Jean: Then there was that one from Ketchikan.

George: Dr. Walker.

Jean: Yeah.

Ter: Walker, yeah.

Jean: And you know they were good - great talkers and it all happened on the floor like Judge Arnold sitting there on the floor you know doing his bit. You could see it all. So it really was interesting. And I was young and free and you know I could go and watch and I did. I enjoyed it a lot.

Ter: Can we stop for a second?

Man: Yeah I'm hearing something - I think it's an airplane.

Jean: He was four and they stayed with us for four or five days I think. And we had found a house just down the block from here, a little miner's cabin and fixed it up and lived in it. And I had a little nursery schooler after a while for the American Women's Voluntary Services. Then it moved to the top floor of the Governor's Mansion. That was another volunteer thing I did, but Dorothy Gruening let us have the third floor for a cooperative nursery.

Ter: For all the little kids of -

Jean: By that time I had two - the first two children which we adopted in Boston.

Ter: Tell me what were the names of the kids, what were -

Jean: Well we were fortunate to get girl boy, girl boy and girl boy. And we got two in the 40's and - in the late 40's, and two in the mid 50's and two in the early 60's and they go Shelly and Jeffrey were the first day. Then it was Sidney and Gavin, and then it was Sabrena and Garth. All very literary names.

Ter: So that's a broader range of age - 10 years ago maybe or 12 years.

Jean: The oldest - our oldest daughter was 17 when we got Garth at three months. He was three months old. So there is quite a gap. We were at parenting for a long, long time. So I was a volunteer at the school for a very long time. I'm the - I tell them I'm the oldest living volunteer at Harborview School.

Man: I'm hearing another airplane coming into range here.

Ter: Aaron, you rolling?

Aaron: Rolling.

Ter: What kind of stuff did you do at the library, what kind of things, just like reading and storytelling?

Jean: I had you mean at the school library?

Ter: Yeah, yeah.

Jean: The tasks that you know people think librarians don't have anything to do but reading, but there are a big lot of tasks that go into and one of the things I was quite good at was finding misfiled cards. Of course we don't have - you don't do that sort of thing today but and we - I did a lot of reading to the kids. In fact they all - these kids that I call my Harborview kids think I was one of the librarians. So I'm a librarian by acclamation. And I belong to the Library Association and support everything about a library.

Ter: Yeah, it's like the great American institution isn't it? I think the Public Library -

Jean: Oh, it isn't.

Ter: Yeah, yeah.

Jean: And when one of our local borough assemblymen decided that we should charge a dollar every time you took out a book. I tell you my hackles went right up. We gave him to understand that America was built on the free library system.

Ter: That's great. How did - but talk about the kids were quite verbal cause you and George talk a lot?

George: Oh, yeah.

Jean: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

George: We use big words.

Jean: Yes, I think one of the things we were able to give to them was good verbal ability, good number of words they know. They may have failed in other aspects but they all knew words. We read a lot to them. Every evening we read to the children around the table while George and I had our cup of coffee. And we went through volumes. I was still reading when the youngest finally left home and then there wasn't anybody but George to read to and we found we could read faster to ourselves so that's when I gave that up.

Ter: Well what was it like sort of in family things Jean like you were saying that you guys often shared a lot of the duties and stuff?

Jean: Oh terrific yes. We would never have managed six children had not we both pitched in on all fronts. And he did his - when we were building the house he used to come home, get into his carpenter's overalls and -

George: I did it after dinner.

Jean: And worked until dinner and then after dinner he read to the kids while I bathed a certain section of them. They had already - we hadn't started reading to them at the dinner table when they were really small but we certainly did before the smallest was any more than crawling around on the floor.

Ter: So when you're at the dinner table you just read books as you were sitting around eating sort of?

Jean: No, no, we ate first.

Ter: Afterwards, okay.

Jean: You can't eat and read a book at the same time.

Ter: Okay, right.

Jean: But I can drink coffee and read a book at the same time and I did. And then I got interested in various other things. When I was first here I volunteered some for the Health Department. And I remember reading TB tests because TB was such a - and another thing I did for the Health Department was you know in the decade of the 50's - 50 to 60, the Health Department here almost erased TB. And I did - they did a study about this and in all the villages and gosh there are a lot of villages and what influenced the villages the most. And of course it turned out to be the religious leader and the teacher and if they were big enough a nurse and the impact that it had on them. And I collated that with a little intelligent help from George for the White House Conference. There was a White House Conference on this nationwide. And Egan was Governor and I was supposed to get to go with two people from the Health Department, but at the last minute he said only one person could go from the Health Department so the other person and I never got to go, but it was really interesting.

Ter: TB was the scourge of Alaska wasn't it?

Jean: Oh, yeah.

Ter: Rural Alaska, yeah.

Jean: But what I found out in going from room to room and testing these TB things was that you could the minute you stepped into the room what kind of a teacher there was there. Having been a teacher of course - I would have probably gone on teaching school here but the superintendent of schools at the time was prejudice against any woman whose husband worked for the government. That was kind of a hangover from the depression I think.

Ter: So if you had a woman who had a government job they just wouldn't hire them is that right?

Jean: Well yeah, they wouldn't hire his wife, but so I had to go out and adopt all these kids.

Ter: But and so but reading the TB test was just around here. Did you go to village for that?

Jean: Oh, no, no. There wasn't the money to do that.

Ter: I see. I see.

Jean: There was some you know the -

Ter: Local people did that?

Jean: Yeah.

Ter: Yeah, yeah, I see, okay. Well tell us about the writing and stuff. How did you - what was your first project?

Jean: Well I always intended to be a writer. I wrote a grubby little book when I was 10 years old in a notebook that I kept in my overalls pocket because I liked to wear overalls. And I remember the looks of it, but I don't remember anything about what was in it. A lot of misspelling I expect.

Ter: Remember what the title was?

Jean: Oh, no, heaven's no. I haven't the faintest memory of what I wrote, but I did know that I - as soon as I found out that writers were humans, just real people, I - that was for me cause I really loved books. And but I really didn't have - I really didn't have creative energy left until my last two kids were in high school. And then I started seriously doing it. It took me five years to get a book published and the first one that was published was

Good-bye My Island. Although (inaudible) and I had put together A King Island Christmas and sent it off first to the same company that did publish - Green (inaudible). They thought that it was kind of esoteric and maybe would not - there would not be general interest, but they liked Good-by My Island and after that was published it got very good reviews all over and sold well. I never made it out of the mid list of authors however. And so then they took King Island Christmas.

Ter: Tell us about working with Ree Menuse (?) because you've known her for a long time, right, when did you first?

Jean: Well I met her when she first came to town in the 50's and liked her and we've been friends ever since. But she had done a year of teaching school with her then husband Juan Menuse. And she had really liked it and she had done a lot of sketches about it and his story about Father Karel coming was a true story and she thought it would make a good picture book and she knew I was sending off stories and she asked if I would do the story. And as far as working with her she did her thing and I did my thing. I did have her read everything I wrote about King Island because it based loosely on her - she's the Maria in the book, loosely based you know to make sure that I didn't do what people do so often when they write their first book about Alaska they fill it full of incongruities of one kind or another. So I was very careful not to and I did consider seriously that it was somebody else's culture. But they weren't writing the story and I just thought it was a story that should be told.

Ter: And how did you do - did you sort of interview her I mean did she have a tough to read about it? How did you -

Jean: No, if I had been a Catholic girl I would have found a lot more about it than I did, but I didn't know that the succeeding fathers who had been there had done a lot of writing about it, so I didn't have that material, but I did look through the newspapers and got as much material as I could. And she had lots and lots and lots of pictures. And I didn't interview her in any way, shape, or form. I just -it just - I was so interested in what she had to say about it over the years that I had known her you know that it was just all there.

Ter: What about King Island Christmas? You actually said that one came first? You actually did that one first?

Jean: Yeah. Uh-huh.

Ter: So how did that -

Jean: That's what got me so interested in telling this other story.

Ter: And it's basically from hearing it - her talk about it in a way right?

Jean: Yes.

Ter: That's really the inspiration.

Jean: Well the King Island Christmas was because she asked me if I would write the story because I agreed that it was an interesting story. And it would make a good picture book and she had already done some pictures, some pictures of the North Star and the rough seas and so it was just a pure pleasure. My - working with me was mostly to encourage her and tell her that this is a wonderful picture and she is just doing wonderful things and - because she found out that she does not like to do picture books. You know you have to do 23 or 24 pictures all in the same color pad, all about the same people and she is greatly, greatly an artist who wants to look through her sketch book and see what appeals to her. If it doesn't turn out she turns over the paper and tries it again. If that doesn't turn out she picks another one, yeah. And that thing of having to do it. Now some artists like that. They like the parameter that is forcing them to do this, but she did black and white's for the Good-bye Island, little black and white sketches. And then she did - and she had already done King Island Christmas and then she did one of my mittens and she said this is it.

Ter: Well let's say you know if there is something that you kind of you know looking back what was the happiest time for you kind of being in you know - I asked George about this earlier, is there some kind of time or event or thing you were involved with or thing that was really the most fun?

Jean: Well of course it was really fun when we adopted our first little girl. It was really fun when we adopted our last little boy. I don't know I think there's a state of mind in which you decide to be happy with what you have and I was certainly of that state of mind. Besides he's a great guy.

Ter: Is he a great guy?

Jean: Yeah, he's a great guy.

Ter: Is he, yeah?

Jean: Yeah.

Ter: So why is he great guy?

Jean: Well he's thoughtful. He's courteous. He's kind. He's loving. He's smart. He's talented you know. He's just a great guy. And he likes me. We still like each other.

Ter: Well that's pretty nice. And you've been married now for?

Jean: Well it will be 61 years the 27th of this November.

Ter: That's wonderful.

Jean: And we're hoping to last a few years and enjoy this nice new house.

George: The house that's definitely the goal.

Ter: Even more than a few, Jean.

Jean: That's why you have to feed us.

Ter: That's right, which is what we're going to do. Can you think of anything else we should ask?

Robert: Well just one question based on what our premise is. You came up here before it was a state, would you share with Terrence here your impressions of what happened through the process of turning from territory to state?

Jean: You know it was -

Ter: Look towards me though Jean so we can -

Jean: Oh, it was a time of real thrill because we were building a state and it just inspired all kinds of people and all kinds of people came here. We met all sorts of interesting people here and I must have invited a lot of them to dinner. It was just a great and glorious time. I think the only - the most difficult time of our lives was when the kids were teenagers and the difference between teenagers when Shelly and Jeffrey were teenagers and the teenagers when Sydney and Gavin were teenagers was just terrific. Society just fell apart on you. Society used to help support you as a parent. That's not true, but that wasn't true any more and that was hard. But we had each other and the kids are loving thoughtful children today. Are grownups and it's the nicest thing about having kids is that when they grow up you can be friends with them.

Ter: Yeah that's wonderful. That's the greatest accomplishment, isn't it, so?

Jean: It is. Besides I liked my mother-in-law.

Ter: Oh your mother-in-law was?

Jean: George's mother.

Ter: Okay. So is she still alive now?

Jean: No, when she was widowed she came to spend time with us and then we got to really know her and she was really a great lady. I loved her a lot. My mother had been dead for some years.

Ter: Oh, that's nice, that's wonderful.

Jean: My dad used to come and visit us and he was fun too.

Ter: And from Idaho, was he from?

Jean: Uh-huh. They put me in school in Albion you know up in this wild place up in the mountains where there wasn't any transportation to Albion Teachers College.

George: You put your kids in school and they couldn't get out.

Jean: So your folks brought you or somebody brought you that had a car and deposited you and there was no way to get out until somebody came and got you. It was really cut off. It was a funny - it was a wonderful little campus, quite pretty. Desired after a New England school all in a quadrangle with red brick buildings around you know. It was really a very pretty place.

Ter: Gosh I wonder if it's exists or -

Jean: Well it exists but it is not a teacher training college and it hasn't been for years and the buildings are getting derelict, although the little town tries - has tried to sell it as a - well for a while it was a religious school. And then for a while it was something else. And then they've been trying to - it's good skiing there so they've been thinking of trying to make it a ski resort but nothing has actually come of it. I did take George back to it.

George: And that was very interesting.

Jean: Some of my Albion friends.

George: Beautiful, red brick.

Jean: One of the highlights four years ago was when there were eight of us who lived across the hall from each other, roommates you know, so it made eight of us. And we kept in touch and when they were all 80 they all came up to visit except one who was too ill to come. And it was what - Marshall Linn's wife called Jean among the Q-tips. They were all white haired. But we had such a glorious reunion up here. It was just - it was really lovely to do.

Ter: How wonderful. So all seven of the eight came, isn't that something? Gosh.

Jean: Seven of the eight of us were together.

Ter: Wow. That's so interesting.

Jean: One of the things that amazed us all as all of us were dirt poor you know. You didn't go to Albion if you weren't dirt poor. And all had prospered and none of us can believe that we are as prosperous today from our really dirt poor beginnings. You know I couldn't

have gone to Berkeley if it cost today what - the kids could do it then you know. You could work your way through.

Ter: Yeah, that's really remarkable - that is remarkable, I mean it just is and also.

Jean: I didn't know that George was rich, you know, he had this ability to keep books and stuff so he had money in the bank.

George: That's right.

Ter: Oh, that's so interesting, but I like Jean among the Q-tips too. I got to tell Lois about - I got to ask her about that. I just actually was up there -

Jean: Our first date was a play

Ter: Oh, it was, oh.

Jean: It was a Shakespeare play. It was -

Ter: Which one?

George: The Tempest

Jean: The Tempest and we have been going to Shakespeare plays as often as we can since and sometimes George has been in quite a few of them and when we were in England we were considered the couple that went to the most Shakespeare plays that anybody they knew had been to. We really did have a good time there. And for me I went everywhere where Jane Austen had ever trod. How about that for a little girl from Idaho? In overalls and want to be a singing cowgirl.

Ter: Oh, you didn't tell me about that part.

Man: I don't think we can tape

Ter: What about Jane Austen?

(Inaudible).

George: The German Requiem. That was a very interesting one to work on.

Jean: So we and we sung it in choirs, but that doesn't do a solo performance. You got to have a chorus.

Man: I'm set.

Ter: So tell us about Jane Austen, so you were as big of hers?

Jean: Yes, I'm a big fan of hers. I - when I had went to grade school in a little town next to Twin Falls called Buhl. And I moved after the eighth grade to Twin Falls and of course when you're a school kid when you move into a neighborhood a school isn't on there is not as much chance to get to know the other kids. So my sister and I gloried in the library there because we had just about run out of books in Buhl. And so we went to the library every day when it opened and got books and one day she said to me Jean, read this book you'll like it. And it was Jane Austen's Private Prejudice. And I was 13 and I just loved it and she loved it. So when we went and I have read all of her books several times and I've read a lot of stuff about her. So I'm something of an authority, more so than some of the people who write about her I think sometimes. But I did go - George and I went everywhere she went.

Man: I'm going to have to stop.

Ter: Is that right?

Jean: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Man: Rolling.

Ter: To where?

Jean: To - help me out George.

George: You're talking about Scotland?

Jean: Yeah. Uh-huh. When we were -

Ter: Walter Scott or -

Jean: Yeah.

Ter: Oh, okay, that Scott, okay. Uh-huh. Oh wow.

Jean: He had a very nice study. George was quite envious.

Ter: No, but I think that so in a way libraries have been one of your passions, right, Jean you would say?

Jean: Uh-huh.

Ter: And that has given you a chance to tour a lot around the state would you say?

Jean: Well my books have, not my library volunteering.

Ter: But speaking about them?

Jean: Yes. Uh-huh. Going to schools.

Ter: Yeah.

Jean: Talking about it, but that has been a wonderful opportunity. I've been all kinds of places. I used to have a map with the little - on my study door that had pinpoints wherever I had been.

Ter: Well tell us just a little bit in closing about the fire and stuff. I mean what did you guys were in -

George: Berkeley.

Ter: Oh, in Berkeley, okay. So what was the -

Jean: Well we were staying with this friend whose letters I was telling you about and she came in - the phone rang and she came into the room where we were sleeping and she said I don't know how to tell you this. And George said well just say it. And she said your house - that was Sydney and your house burned to the ground last night. And so George just said to me well guess we'll just start over. So we did. He started designing a house again. And we've been very, very kindly treated by everybody in Juneau I think.

George: Just wonderful.

Jean: We've had help in all directions. And we had a very nice contractor and we have a nice head carpenter who is still coming and doing things. As soon as we get the (inaudible) door on the closet and the plate rail up I'd say we're substantially finished until the outside landscaping gets done.

Ter: What year - when did the house burn down - how many years ago was it now it was two?

Jean: Two.

Ter: Two years ago?

Jean: Uh-huh.

Ter: So and when did you start this house - actually break ground?

Jean: In July.

George: July last year.

Jean: Uh-huh and we moved in on Christmas Eve.

Ter: Oh, nice present.

Jean: Which it was terrible.

Ter: Was it bad?

George: It wasn't finished. There were two carpenters still working, two plumbers working and one electrician.

Jean: And (inaudible) people all friends of George, young people came and moved us from the Linn's apartment up here where Marshall and Lois lived and they're old friends of ours too.

Man: I'm afraid this airplane is really getting loud.

Ter: So you were staying with Marshall and Lois' house, their apartment?

Jean: Yeah. Uh-huh. And so there was a crew there putting stuff in boxes and a crew here presumably helping me put them away. And I had five - you know it was a small apartment and I had five drawers to keep everything that was meant for a kitchen and here I have 35. So it was - but for days were wondered around saying do you know where this is? Do you know where that is? And searching in boxes for things, but you know we finally got on top of it. But you know one of the worst things about having a fire is that you feel like a displaced person. It was a while before we felt at home here. Besides that everything is gone. We don't have any fingernail clippers. You don't have a needle and thread. You don't have any old rags to wipe up messes with you know. It is just - every day you say well for a long time you say I'm going to get, well no I'm not going to get that. And it's a big, big tiresome chore, but the results of course are worth it.

Ter: The house is so beautiful now. I guess is there anything part of it that's kind of liberating and you know you don't have to make decisions about what to throw out, do you?

Jean: You don't even have to clean out the closets. I just had begun to do a lot of that.

Ter: I mean obviously awful too but I guess there's that -

Jean: There are some things that you lose that you can't replace.

Ter: Can't replace.

Jean: There is no amount of insurance can replace that.

Ter: That's right, yeah.

Jean: But I'm not a - one of my philosophies is not to fuss too much about things you can't help.

George: My philosophy is to keep busy, keep busy and redesigning the house.

Jean: Yeah he had - George did enjoy that part.

Ter: Well you always wanted to be an architect, right?

George: That's exactly right.

Jean: He designed our first house.

George: Activity and -

Ter: So what's your review Jean on his architectural skills?

Jean: A1.

Ter: That's pretty good.

Jean: A plus.

Ter: Seventh career for him.

Jean: Yeah, well, yeah, seven to ten.

Ter: Well I can't think of anything else - Robert? But you know we're going to talk to BG Olson tomorrow. So you worked with him on the -

Jean: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

Ter: On the public broad (inaudible).

Jean: Went to breakfast with him a lot. I always stayed with somebody when we went on trips to share the expenses. So Lena (inaudible) stayed with a lot and Sharon Gateman. Those were happy days you know. We had money. I didn't know anything about the technicalities of all that talk you know about this high tech stuff but I was - Bitsey Brennerman and I were the only two people when that crook was hired here - that were against him. We had (inaudible) him out before the rest of them did. So I had some uses there.

And of course we used to go to the national conventions and that was always fun.

Ter: And just one thing about Lois and Marshall. He's retiring.

Jean: Yes, I just had a note from Lois that they were going to do that.

Ter: Well she's just delightful. Oh, he is too. I mean they're both.

Jean: We used to go grocery shopping together when the grocery stores moved out the road you know it was a trip so she'd do the driving and the hauling, take me along. Those were good times. We used to walk with her too. She was one of our walking friends. We walked to Twin Lakes a lot with her.

Ter: And did - George I don't know if you worked with Marshall?

George: Oh, yeah.

Jean: He was on the Advisory over there as long as the law allowed.

George: Yeah. Marshall said George I've hired you to say the things that I'm not allowed to say and the first Marshall cleaned up his mess. We had a guy that they hired as the chancellor whose record was completely false. He was (inaudible). I had nothing against him, but his name was Paradise. It was a strange name.

Ter: Oh, I remember this guy, yeah.

George: And he had -

Jean: Built up quite a name.

George: He had two vice chancellors. He had a basketball team.