

Charles Donovan: That's where I learned to ... and on Umnak Island, I learned how to drive a Jeep – a 1940's Jeep.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh really.

Charles Donovan: That's where I learned to drive.

Janis Kozlowski: You mean, drive at all, or just to drive a Jeep?

Charles Donovan: Drive at all.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, really!

Charles Donovan: Yep.

Janis Kozlowski: So, who taught you?

Charles Donovan: I did. [Chuckle]

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, you just got in and figured it out, huh?

Charles Donovan: Got in [Chuckle], figured it out, and away we went.

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh] So, did they not allow, or was there no opportunity to drive before then?

Charles Donovan: No.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, I guess you joined the Navy at 17, so....

Charles Donovan: Yes, right. Well, at that time, as I said, we lived in Buffalo, New York and my dad never had a car – never in his life had a car. My oldest brother bought a, oh, a 19 ... 30, 36, or '33 Ford. And I can remember my dad getting out in the backyard - my brother headed out there one time - my dad getting into it and he backed into a fence.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, oh!

Charles Donovan: But, that was his first driving experience - and his last. But, anyway, I had never had occasion to have access to a car.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, that's pretty amazing. So, that was a, was that a pretty big deal for you?

Charles Donovan: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that was great.

Janis Kozlowski: So, then did you get to drive that Jeep around?

Charles Donovan: Oh, I'm telling you, I drove it all over the island.

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh]

Charles Donovan: [Chuckle]

Janis Kozlowski: How many roads were there?

Charles Donovan: [Chuckle] There weren't many ...

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh]

Charles Donovan: ... but I'd make roads.

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh]

Charles Donovan: We'd go over that tundra grass like a, well again, we'd make a road.

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle] That must have been kind of a bumpy ride.

Charles Donovan: It was.

Janis Kozlowski: Didn't care though, right? [Laugh]

Charles Donovan: No. Not a bit ... had fun doing it.